



Steel blames Owen over election failure

Thatcher coalition hint was 'a great mistake'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, yesterday used his sharpest words yet about the SDP leader when he blamed Dr David Owen's strategy for the Alliance election failure.

He urged his party and the SDP to speed up merger talks so that they could stop talking to each other and start talking to the country.

He told the Liberal assembly during its first day of debate on merger: "Let them be brief."

With the tide running overwhelmingly in favour of merger, Mr Steel yesterday joined in a series of bitter Liberal attacks on his former ally Dr Owen, who is refusing to join any new merged party.

Homeless make way for Pope

From Charles Bremner, Los Angeles

The Pope was driven through suburban Los Angeles yesterday acclaimed by heavily Hispanic crowds on the sixth day of a US tour where the only real protests have come from the Government.

A motorcade took the Pope through Chinatown to what passes as the town centre in this city's big metropolitan sprawl. After meeting dignitaries, he was attending services and addressing Hollywood's movie moguls and other "leaders of the communications industry". Once again he was expected to state his concern at the power of material values in the United States.

The Pope's procession took him to St Vibiana's Cathedral in the downtown area, where he will be staying with Archbishop Roger Mahony. Shortly before his arrival police moved out 400 homeless people from the district, outraging those who take care of the city's down and out.

The Pope is expected to use his Los Angeles stop for fresh encouragement of Catholic organizations helping poor immigrants.

IN PART 2

Hotels sold
Bass is expanding his hotel business by paying £296 million for the chain of 178 Holiday Inns outside the US, Canada and Mexico. Page 21

Wall St slump
The Dow Jones Average fell 40 points in early Wall Street trading after the announcement of a record US current account deficit. Page 21

Portfolio Gold
There is £4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio Gold competition. Yesterday a reader from Hertfordshire won £8,000, double the usual amount because there had been no winner on Monday. Details, page 3
● Portfolio list, page 29.

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Reagan receives 'good' letter from Gorbachov



President Reagan, applauded by Vice-President Bush, shaking the hand of Mr Shevardnadze after the signing of the accord.

Russia urges summit meeting

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said yesterday that "a summit is necessary" between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, but proposed no date for a meeting.

He was answering reporters questions just before beginning a White House meeting with the President. The Soviet Foreign Minister said he had brought a letter from Mr Gorbachov to Mr Reagan, adding that "there are good things in that letter."

Asked whether it proposed a summit date, he said: "No date. But a summit is necessary."

Mr Shevardnadze began three days of intensive talks yesterday morning with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, aimed at overcoming the remaining hurdles to an arms control agreement but also focusing on a wide range of world issues and Soviet-American relations.

Later, President Reagan presided at a ceremony in the Rose Garden where the two foreign ministers signed a new agreement to reduce the risk of nuclear war by accident.

The President noted in remarks at the ceremony that the new risk reduction centres to be set up in Moscow and Washington were the first direct channel for communication since the creation of the hotline in 1963, and could play a key role in exchanging information necessary for effective verification of future arms control agreements.

Mr Shevardnadze said the agreement marked the tangible step from the agreement at the Reykjavik summit to set up such centres and to prevent a nuclear war. He called it a "prelude to more important agreements." Officials of both the US and the Soviet delegations sounded a note of caution at the start of the talks, which are expected to see tough last-minute bargaining on both sides. In contrast to their earlier optimism, American officials said they did not now expect to conclude an intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty or set a date for a summit before Mr Shevardnadze has reported back to Mr Gorbachov.

Mr Shultz said afterwards they had had a "very good meeting," and that their talks were "thorough and constructive."

The two foreign ministers are going on to the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly, and are expected to hold further talks.

Pits facing disruption after peace talks fail

Five hours of talks between the National Union of Mineworkers and Aca's, the arbitration service, yesterday failed to prevent the threat of industrial action that could cost Britain's coal industry £10 million a week.

Barring further peace moves, the union's national executive will meet tomorrow to agree details of a national overtime ban from Monday. It would be the first industrial action throughout the British coal industry since the year-long strike which ended in 1985.

After the talks with Aca's officials, Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, said that the union had made significant concessions on the crucial issue of arbitration in disciplinary proceedings.

The union has said that it is prepared to accept the binding ruling of any independent arbitrator. British Coal, insisting on what it calls the right to manage, says it will not necessarily give men reinstated by an arbitrator their old jobs back.

Mr Douglas Smith, the Aca's chairman, and Mr Dennis Boyd, its chief negotiator, went from their talks with the

NUM for two hours of discussions with Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal, and Mr Kevan Hunt, its head of industrial relations. Afterwards, Mr Scargill said it was obvious that British Coal had refused to move.

He told a press conference that he found the response bitterly disappointing for all in the industry. The NUM considered British Coal's disciplinary code to be a charter for removing union activists from the industry, Mr Scargill said. It would be possible for British Coal to move to another pit a union official they considered disruptive even if charges against the official under the



Mr Scargill: Prepared for industrial action next week

disciplinary code were shown to be groundless. "It really is like going to the High Court on a murder charge and being found not guilty but being taken out and hanged anyway", he said.

British Coal might claim it had the right to manage, but that did not mean the right to be perverse. Repeating his allegation that the Government was behind British Coal's attitude, he pointed the finger directly at Mrs Thatcher, saying: "Attila the Hen seems once again to have her hand on the tiller."

A British Coal spokesman said last night that Mr Scargill "was more concerned about the protection of his union militants than the interests of his rank and file members."

The spokesman said that any overtime ban would not be national because pits in the Midlands area, mostly those in Nottinghamshire dominated by the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, would not be affected. Those pits produced 70 per cent of Britain's industrial coal supplies, other than those for power stations, and supplied much of the coal for power stations in their areas.

UN chief fails in Gulf peace search

From Robert Fisk, Bahrain

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, left Baghdad for New York yesterday with his Gulf War peace mission unfulfilled and the two belligerents apparently as intransigent as ever.

All Señor Pérez de Cuellar would say before his departure was that he had had detailed discussions with both Iran and Iraq on an "outline plan" for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution which demanded a ceasefire.

His statement contained nothing new; nor did it preface any initiatives to break the state of war.

The Iraqis insisted to the end that they would abide by the UN resolution — which meets the terms of Iraq's but not Iran's conditions for ending the war Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, told Señor Pérez de Cuellar yesterday that Iraq hoped the Security Council "will abide by its own resolution, its spirit and its sequence".

Señor Pérez de Cuellar twice met Mr Aziz and once President Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi leader had de-

manded "punitive measures" against Iran for failing to accept the Security Council resolution.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar's entourage suggested there was still room for hope.

According to the Iraqi news agency, President Saddam Hussein said Iran should abide by UN resolution 598 "in its entirety", including clauses which insisted upon a

Hostage story 6

withdrawal of belligerent armies to international frontiers.

Mr Aziz reiterated Iraq's policy shortly before Señor Pérez de Cuellar left. "We welcomed Security Council resolution 598," he said, "not because we don't have observations on it — not because we don't have our points of view about this or that element in it — but because we accepted it as a binding resolution taken by the authority in this world which is in charge of peace and order." There could be no changes in the resolution.

Labour candidates

Kinnock wins selection fight

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, last night defeated left-wingers to become assured of victory in his long campaign to give all party members a vote in the selection of parliamentary candidates.

But the precise mechanism is being left to the party conference at Brighton in a fortnight.

Trade unions will then have an opportunity to determine whether they will retain their traditional influence on the selection of candidates.

There is now likely to be a fortnight of feverish inter-union negotiations and possible chaos at the conference because the NEC declined to declare a preference between the two possible systems for making the change.

These are a straight one member one vote system, and a one member one vote system within an electoral college, which would contain a guaranteed minimum percentage of union representatives.

The latter proposal was originally put forward by Mr Kinnock as a way of ensuring victory for widening the party

franchise but he was defeated on the issue in 1984.

Mr Kinnock made plain yesterday that he would be happy with either since both will give him the franchise extension; and with the decision against making a recommendation, he and the NEC avoid the risk of being defeated.

But their stance is likely to anger some union leaders who believe the NEC should be giving a lead.

Before deciding on the precise method, the conference will vote on the principle of involving all party members in selection votes.

That is certain to be passed. Mr Kinnock yesterday defeated by 19 votes to eight a proposal that there should be no change in the present system which leaves selections in the hands of general management committees of local parties.

Yesterday's meeting had before it figures which showed that in the last election, Labour candidates were selected by only 8.4 per cent of the individual membership

Mr Kinnock attacked the opponents of change, saying they were raising technical objections because they feared involvement of the mass membership. The change would give every member a direct say in candidate selection and was essential "if we are further to modernize and invigorate the party".

Party leaders were last night discounting the possibility that the conference could back the principle of change and then vote down both the options for implementing it which would mean a special conference to decide the issue.

The executive agreed that if the electoral college proposal is adopted the unions' representation will be based on current strength on local party committees, but they will not be allowed more than 40 per cent of the vote.

The eight members voting against change were Mr Skinner, Miss Maynard, Mr Tony Benn, Mrs Margaret Beckett, Ms Linda Douglas, Miss Jo Richardson, Mrs Audrey Wise, and Mr Tom Sawyer.

The people have no water? Let them drink Ob

From Christopher Walker, Moscow



Inhabitants of the remote Siberian village of Vampugolsk, on the banks of the mighty River Ob, have been without electricity for a week, bread for 10 days and, with winter fast approaching, still have not received the running water promised to them many times by senior Communist Party officials.

It is not for Pravda, the official party newspaper, their plight — like that of tens of thousands of rural dwellers in far-flung corners of the Soviet Union — would probably have gone unnoticed.

But yesterday the paper ruthlessly exposed the unhappy situation in the previously unheard-of Soviet village as part of the Kremlin's new campaign of shaming incompetent bureaucrats by

holding them up to public ridicule and contempt.

An intrepid Pravda correspondent was despatched to the village in the middle of Siberia's oil-rich Tyumen region because the angry residents had written requesting his editors to help them find their village soviet, whose members flatly refused to base themselves in the village because of the discomforts.

The reporter found that Vampugolsk had no electricity because a key pylon had been knocked down and not replaced. Its residents were reduced to eating crusts because the only bakery in the area had broken down.

In a lengthy catalogue of woes that would certainly have been covered up in the pre-glasnost era, Pravda also recounted that the only kindergarten had been shut for two months because its

refrigerator did not function; the only medical centre was shut indefinitely for lack of staff; and the village had to rely on a single well because of problems over a promised water main.

Having noted all the complaints, the Pravda man said that it then took him another whole day to track down the offices of the Vampugolsk village soviet, which were situated "many, many kilometres away".

The paper put questions about the disastrous state of affairs in Vampugolsk to the council secretary, Valentina Rosenthal.

"Our people live a parasitical life," she said, in response to the litany of complaints. "In a word, they are lazy." She is not expected to remain in her privileged post for much longer.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Spending cuts to shut six wards

At least six hospital wards are to close after economies of £1.3 million were approved by West Berkshire Health Authority yesterday. Dr John Bell, chairman of the hospital consultants' group and an adviser to the authority, said: "The decision is a disaster for the health service locally. Morale will collapse."

"Waiting lists will get longer. I do not expect that anybody is going to die as a result of the cuts, but they might do." The main services to be affected will be non-emergency surgery at the Royal Berkshire and Battle hospitals in Reading and at the Wokingham hospital.

The officers of the authority proposed the measures to pre-empt overspending of £1.3 million on this financial year's budget of about £70 million. The cuts were approved by a nine to five majority.

Dr Peter Phillips, chairman of the authority, said members had "acted bravely" by facing up to the projected shortfall. He is to lobby the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr John Moore, for extra funding.

Dog case remand

A football supporter who is charged with biting off a police dog's ear was remanded in custody for five weeks yesterday.

Frank Turpin, of north Woolwich, east London, is alleged to have bitten the dog at West Ham United supporters' left their stadium after a match. He was accused at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, of causing criminal damage to a police dog, and assault.

Frederick Skidmore, of East Ham, east London was also remanded. He is charged with assault.

Poll tax protest

The Labour Party's 50 Scottish MPs are to present daily petitions to parliament in protest against the introduction of the community charge.

Mr Donald Dewar, opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said signatures would be gathered from different groups ranging from local authorities, pensioners, the disabled and others.

Mr Dewar was speaking after a meeting of the Scottish Labour parliamentary group in Glasgow yesterday.

Charity MP's regrets

Mr George Galloway, outgoing general secretary of the charity War on Want and MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, yesterday expressed his regret at disclosing he had slept with two women while on a charity mission to Greece.

Meanwhile, fellow MPs said they thought he had damaged his credibility within the Labour Party.

Mr Galloway said his first action would be to try to reach a reconciliation with his wife, Elaine. He said she had already known about his affairs in Greece.

He made the admission during a press conference in Glasgow, held to answer questions about his handling of charity funds.

Editor is to resign

Mr John Lloyd (right) announced yesterday he is to relinquish the editorship of the *New Statesman* magazine to return to the *Financial Times* (Our Media Editor writes).

Mr Philip Whitehead, chairman of the *New Statesman* board, said yesterday: "We are profoundly sorry. We shall be seeking a new editor who can build on his achievements."



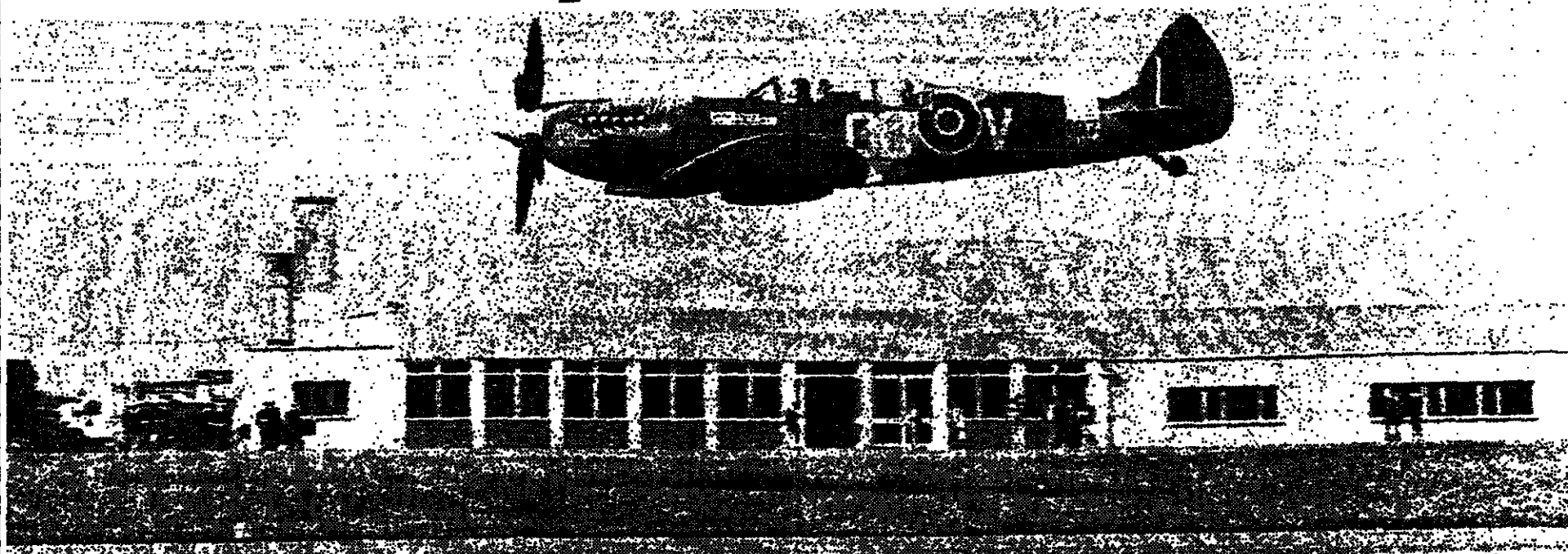
Rates ruling reserved

The Court of Appeal reserved judgement yesterday on a challenge to a 62 per cent rate rise in a Labour-controlled London borough.

Ratepayers are seeking to overturn a High Court ruling in July which upheld the rate set in Waltham Forest, north-east London, the capital's highest rated borough.

Two judges held that several councillors opposed to the rate did not breach their duty to ratepayers by voting for it because of Party unity. Mr James Wadsworth, QC, for the Waltham Forest Ratepayers Action Group, said the High Court ought to have ruled that the councillors allowed irrelevant matters, such as political considerations, to affect their decision. Judgement is expected within ten days.

Plane from the past cuts a path for the future



A lone Spitfire flew over Lydd airport in Kent yesterday to mark Battle of Britain Day and the opening of the airport to the new generation of package holidaymakers (Our Air Correspondent writes).

Although the airport did not see service during the war, the Spitfire was

chosen to cut a symbolic tape across the runway which, when extended next year, will be capable of taking Boeing 747s and other jets filled with charter passengers on their way to the sun.

Lydd was opened first in 1954, purpose-built to cater for what was seen as a burgeoning cross-channel trade.

But it was eventually forced to close. It was bought last year by Lydd Airport Group for about £2.75 million and has now been extensively refurbished with a passenger terminal capable of handling 1.5 million passengers a year.

It is now bidding to attract charter operators to carry passengers from the

South East and serve as an alternative to Luton and Stansted.

Mr Michael Howard, The Minister for Local Government, flew in the Spitfire to mark the opening as guests from many airlines were shown round the airport and told about its prospects. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Ford's new two-seater may sell in Britain

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Ford may launch an £11,000 sports car in Britain, its first in the tradition of MGs.

Ford's only two-seaters were the Le Mans winning GT40 in the 1960s and a £50,000 RS200 rally car which was sold to 120 car collectors last year.

The small sports car has been developed for the North American market. However, Mr Kenneth Whipple, chairman, Ford of Europe, said he would like to sell the car in Europe in modest volume if there was spare production.

The compact two-seater, called Barchetta, was styled by Ford's Italian Ghia design studio and will be built in Australia. It will be based on a 1.6 litre Mazda 323, a front wheel drive car which Ford builds under licence in Australia as the Ford Laser.

In Britain the Barchetta's main rival would be the mid-engined Toyota MR2 though late next year Lotus will unveil a £12,000 two-seater.

Since the legendary GT40, Ford's high performance cars have been based on normal production saloon models with powerful engines developed by Cosworth, the Grand Prix engine manufacturer.

Bedford yesterday confirmed it is negotiating to sell its Dunstable heavy truck plant which the company had made clear needed a new owner to secure its future.

Talks are being held with the DJB Brown Group which owns Artix, the world's largest producer of articulated dump trucks. Jobs for the 1,100 workers would be secure.

Meters for excess water use only, minister promises

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, promised yesterday that under privatisation only those who used excessive amounts of water would have to pay for metered units of water.

Householders would pay a standing charge that would cover "normal" use of water. The tariff would be up to regional water companies.

Only those who washed their cars twice a week or used water excessively in periods of drought would have to pay for metered units of water.

The detailed tariff for water would be up to regional water companies. Mr Ridley said on Radio 4's *Today* programme that the

basic charge would cover the "normal functions" of one or two people.

People would pay on the meter for additional water.

Meters are soon to be tested compulsorily in 50,000 households on the Isle of Wight to see if they alter water use.

A further 10 districts will also take part in compulsory trials before meters are installed throughout the country.

Householders will not pay directly for the trial meters, but their cost will be borne on subsequent water bills.

The chairman of the second largest water authority, Severn Trent, yesterday came close to saying the chairman of the

largest, Thames, should be criticised for his outspoken criticism of the Government's privatisation plans.

Mr John Bellak, a former Conservative Parliamentary candidate, complained of leaks and political naivety by Mr Roy Watts, chairman of Thames and of the Water Authorities Association.

At a Press conference in London, Mr Bellak contradicted Mr Watts' statements, and said that misinformation had been spread about Mr Ridley's plans to regulate the privatized water companies by setting up a National Rivers Authority.

Mr Watts' contract at Thames comes up for renewal

next year and Mr Ridley's aides are understood to think that unless he moderates his tone he should resign.

Mr Bellak said that Severn Trent fully accepted the need for an authority to regulate pollution, in rivers and lakes, manage flood control and oversee the supply of water to the privatized water companies.

Thames Water said Mr Watts was wholly opposed to such an authority on the grounds that it would destroy the principle of integrated management of the country's river basins and also . Mr Watts believed that the establishment of the National Rivers Authority would hurt profitability.

'Polarized' relations threat in Cleveland

By Peter Davenport

Relationships between the police and social services in Cleveland over the future handling of child sex abuse cases may still be beset with problems, the inquiry into the affair was told yesterday.

Mr Michael Bishop, Cleveland's director of social services, told the eighteenth day of the hearing that the two agencies would have to work hard to re-establish their relationship.

He told Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss, who is heading the inquiry at Middlesbrough Town Hall: "Before I gave evidence I was very encouraged by the improvements in relationships between ourselves and the police. There may well be enormous problems in those relationships after this inquiry."

"People have been put in polarized positions in this room. We are going to have to work very hard to get back where we were. I hope we can achieve this."

The inquiry has been told how relationships between the police and social services reached breakdown point because of a dispute on diagnostic techniques between police surgeons and the two consultant paediatricians at the centre of the affair, Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt.

There was also conflict over when and if police surgeons should be allowed access to alleged child sex abuse victims.

At the height of the crisis, when the rapidly escalating number of diagnoses threatened to overwhelm the resources of the social services department in Cleveland, Mr Bishop issued a memo to his staff which, in effect, excluded police surgeons from repeat examinations of children diagnosed as sexual abuse victims by consultants for one month, although they could still collect forensic science evidence.

Mr Bishop rejected a suggestion from Mr Robert Barfield, for the Cleveland police, that problems would be created if the surgeons had found no evidence of sexual abuse. It would have "put a fly in the ointment", he said.

Mr Bishop replied: "That suggests I wanted to find sex abuse where none existed."

The breakdown in relationships was such that at one point the Chief Constable of Cleveland issued a directive to the force instructing officers to treat any diagnoses of sexual abuse made by Dr Higgs with "considerable caution".

Mr Bishop insisted yesterday that there was never any intention to hamper the police in their investigations.

Radon 'difficult to detect'

By Robert Matthews

The family of a Cornish tin miner remained convinced yesterday that his death from cancer was caused by a radioactive gas found in thousands of British homes, in spite of failing to convince an inquest jury of its case.

An open verdict was recorded at the inquest into the death of Mr Kenneth Remnant, aged 66, whose family claimed contracted lung cancer as a result of inhaling radon gas after working for 20 years at the South Crofty tin mine, Camborne.

Radon, which is given off by decaying granite, is believed to exist in potentially dangerous levels in 20,000 British homes.

The Government's radiation watchdog, the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), believes that about 1,000 lung cancer deaths are attributable to radon. Mr Robin Roebuck, solicitor for the family said yesterday he was disappointed that no tests had been carried out to determine whether or not Mr

Remnant had been subjected to excessive levels of radon. However, specialists said that it was impossible to decide whether a specific case of lung cancer was caused by the gas or some other cause.

Dr Robert Marshall, a pathologist, who carried out the autopsy, said he did not test for radon levels in the body. "Whatever levels you found one would still be faced with the impossibility of saying that in an individual case the presence of cancer was caused by radon."

The effects of smoking, in particular, mask the effects of radon, which causes cancer by breaking down into fast-moving alpha particles that irradiate lung tissue.

Mrs Nestor Remnant, aged 64, said her husband was a smoker, but claimed his consumption was not excessive.

Dr Ian Coutts, a consultant chest physician, told the inquest at Helston, Cornwall,

that he believed it was not possible to say if it was cigarette smoking or radon which caused Mr Remnant's lung cancer.

Mr Michael Remnant, who worked underground with his father, said: "The verdict is what I expected, but it has gone some way to showing that radon contributed to his death. There is just not enough knowledge about it yet."

The NRPB said yesterday that the risk of death from radon was calculated from analysis of data gathered from uranium miners which took into account factors such as smoking. Knowing how long a miner was exposed to a specific level can give no more than an estimate of the risk of contracting cancer.

A national survey by the NRPB last year showed that 8,000 homes in Cornwall and 5,000 in Devon probably contained hazardous levels of the dense, invisible gas.

Trouble for last all-British airliner

What could be the last "all British" airliner is four months behind schedule and well short of expected sales (Our Air Correspondent writes).

The British Aerospace ATP (Advanced Turbo Prop) twin propeller aircraft is still undergoing trials in the Mojave desert in California within two weeks of its promised launch date with British Midland.

Three prototypes built by British Aerospace in their factories near Manchester have been subjected to intensive testing.

It will be at least the end of October before they will be approved for service, upsetting plans by British Midland to use them on the Birmingham-Brussels route.

More worrying for British Aerospace, which last week reported a £49 million loss in its civil aircraft division for the first half of 1987, is the lack of orders for the aircraft which, it was hoped, would prove popular with small to medium sized airlines around the world.

So far only eight have been definitely sold - three to British Midland and five to a Canadian leasing and finance company, Avline.

British Aerospace must sell at least 100 to break even.

In the meantime it is being undercut by aggressive marketing from rival aircraft manufacturers especially from France.

The ATP is a stretched and updated version of the popular Andover or 748 airliner, of which 377 have been sold over the last 25 years.

It seats between 64 and 72 passengers in a range of 750 miles and claims to be one of the quietest and most fuel efficient aircraft on the market.

Its advanced cockpit design and avionics would, it was claimed, put it years ahead of its rivals.

Peter Rabbit is reprocessed for modern tastes

By Alan Hamilton

The whole reason for Peter Rabbit being warned against going into the garden, as lovers of Beatrix Potter will be instantly aware, was that his father ended up in Mrs McGregor's pie.

But a new edition of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, just published by Ladybird Books, omits all reference to this vital key to the whole narrative, as it does any mention of the mouse, the cat or the goldfish pond.

It is *Hamlet* without the ghost, *Othello* without the handkerchief.

Not only has Miss Potter's text been reduced by two-thirds to its bare bones, but her accompanying water-

colours, familiar to generations of readers, have been rejected in favour of photographs of stuffed toy rabbits.

Similar treatment has been meted out to *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin*, and others are to follow.

Miss Ronnie Randall, a senior editor at Ladybird, explained yesterday: "Peter gets his come-appearance in so many ways that we decided not to dwell on the pie; we felt it was unnecessary for the story."

The original was rewritten by Mr Peter Hatley, a freelance writer employed by Ladybird.

"Beatrix Potter's language may be simple, but it was written in a different era," Miss Randall said.

The photographic illustrations were an attempt to make the Ladybird edition look different from others.

She rejected the suggestion that photographs of puppets might be more appealing to a generation weaned on television rather than print.

Repackaging Potter has won the approval of Mrs Sally Floyer, custodian of the Potter copyright at her original publishers, Frederick Warne.

She said: "This is a way to introduce Beatrix Potter to a whole new market, particularly to people who never go into bookshops."

"Peter Rabbit will now be in Woolworth's, in supermarkets, and in many other retail outlets."

"Many people would say that Beatrix Potter is too elitist and does not relate to the modern world. I happen to disagree; unite the child with the book, and the child will relate."

There was no particular significance in removing references to the pie, Mrs Floyer said; it was simply a matter of condensing the story.

There are at least three reasons why Mrs Floyer, as guardian of the Potter inheritance, is not unduly distressed.

First, both Ladybird and Frederick Warne now find themselves owned by the same Pearson publishing conglomerate.

Second, the 23 Potter titles in their original Warne edition last year sold seven million

copies worldwide, helped by a £250,000 investment in new and improved printing of the original watercolours that are such a familiar feature of the books.

Record sales figures look likely in the current year.

Third, Warne is involved with a forthcoming exhibition of Beatrix Potter's art at the Tate Gallery in November, with proceeds from the catalogue going to the National Trust's Lake District Appeal.

Miss Potter herself donated her Lakeland cottage, sheep farm and several thousand additional acres to the trust.

Any publicity that widens the public's taste for Potter, even if rabbit pie is omitted from the menu, is therefore being regarded as a good thing.



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British Telecom told to devise improved strategy on pricing

By Tony Dawe

British Telecom is threatened with attack on eight fronts by the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel), the Government's supervisory body.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, said yesterday that he is determined to seek amendments to Telecom's operating licence if it fails to improve its services and to agree a new pricing strategy.

He said: "My job is to keep up the pressure on BT so that it has every possible incentive to perform well. If it cannot meet improved quality of service, the stronger the actions I shall take."

OfTel was set up by the Government to secure the provision of satisfactory telecommunications services and to protect consumers' interests.

The director general can make his own decisions over who runs parts of the service, such as public call boxes, and can ask the Government to amend Telecom's operating licence if he is dissatisfied with any aspect of the company's work.

Professor Carsberg is also expected to disclose his support, in principle, next week for competition in the running of Britain's call boxes. Mercury Communications, Telecom's only rival, has made an outline application to operate some of them.

Professor Carsberg's views will coincide with the publication of an OfTel survey which is expected to be highly critical of the nation's public telephone boxes.

Professor Carsberg confirmed his plans for tackling Telecom's prices when the rules governing them change in two years' time.

In spite of profits of £2 billion last year, Telecom wants to amend the rule that limits annual changes in a "basket" of services to 3 per cent less than the inflation rate.

The terms of Telecom's operating licence state that if it fails to reach agreement with OfTel over the pricing strategy, the matter must be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Professor Carsberg said: "I would naturally hope to agree the matter with BT, but if I cannot, I shall ask the commission to look at the price control issue and consider whether it should be linked to quality of service to provide a greater incentive for BT."

"Alternatively, BT's operating licence could be amended to introduce financial penalties should the company fail to provide a better quality of service."

Government ministers are understood to be anxious for the price control issue to be examined thoroughly by the commission.

Such an airing would make it easier for the Government to approach the sale of its remaining 49.8 per cent stake in the company, which may be delayed until the price issue is resolved in 1989.

The delay would also give Telecom more time to improve its much-criticized services.

Professor Carsberg believes the management is making determined efforts to improve services, but he is considering seeking amendments to Telecom's operating licence on that front, too.

The head of OfTel also called on Telecom to follow improved procedures to prevent incorrect charging for unsuccessful calls and calls that should be free, in the wake of reports in *The Times* that faulty lines and metering equipment could be earning Telecom extra millions.

He called on the company to introduce itemized billing as quickly as possible and threatened action over Telecom's licence if it was dilatory on either point.

Town in full cry over threat to school



Shopkeepers barricaded their premises, church bells rang and publicans draped towels over their beer pumps as high noon came to Southwold yesterday (Michael Horsnell writes).

Asian girl in school transfer

The dispute over parents' refusal to send children to a Dewsbury school where 85 per cent of the children are of Asian origin escalated yesterday, when an Indian mother revealed that her daughter had been withdrawn from the school because there were not enough white pupils.

Permission was given by Kirklees education authority for Shaheen Mulla, aged eight, to transfer from Headfield Middle School because her parents felt the racial imbalance unsatisfactory, and their daughter was unhappy at not being with white friends.

It was parents' unwillingness to enrol 25 children at Headfield which led to disagreements with the education authority.

Shaheen is being taught at County School in Dewsbury, where parents have been attempting to enrol their children and where the girl's brother is already a pupil.

Their mother, Mrs Farnida Mulla, said: "Headfield is a very good school, but there are not enough white youngsters with whom our daughter can mix."

Mr Zakir Mulla, the girl's uncle, said that her parents were deeply concerned about the transfer, which had been blown out of all proportion. His niece was already on the waiting list for County School when term began and her parents were keen for her to join her brother.

"For anyone to suggest that my niece was transferred because of educational standards at Headfield is totally wrong. I was a pupil there myself and found the school excellent."

Mr Ian McMillan, principal education officer for Kirklees, said that a place was offered to Shaheen at County School after two pupils moved to another area.

Parents in Essex yesterday defied their local education authority and deposited children at St Clare's comprehensive at Stanford-le-Hope, which Essex County Council says is full.

Portfolio Gold

A university lecturer is planning a spending spree after winning £8,000 in the Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner on Monday.

Mr David Steed, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, who is married with two daughters, said: "We will probably start with replacing the car."

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Dieters told of health risk

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A strong warning about the health risks from self-imposed diets provoked by ill-informed food "scars" was given yesterday.

Professor Maurice Lessop said: "An exaggerated attention given to food intolerance can arouse more problems than it solves; for example in the sudden filling of doctors' surgeries the morning after lurid television programmes on health."

Professor Lessop is Professor of Medicine at Guy's Hospital and chairman of a committee on food intolerance, allergy and aversion run jointly by the Royal College of Physicians and the British Nutrition Foundation.

Speaking at the launch of a new "food intolerance data bank", he said it was important to avoid sensational remedies which caused unnecessary gloom and despondency. He said more problems were now caused by the improper use of inadequate diets than by food allergy.

Western Isles world's worst for heart disease

By Kerry Gill

The Western Isles of Scotland have the world's highest rate of death from heart disease, according to a public health report.

The report comes as the World Health Organization begins a screening exercise this week to assess the levels of heart disease and blood pressure in both the Western Isles and Northern Ireland.

Figures compiled by the Western Isles health board show that 827 people died from heart disease in the islands between 1980 and 1985, a rate of 4.49 per cent, compared with 3.66 per cent in the rest of Scotland and 3.15 per cent in England.

WHO will screen 400 people aged between 30 and 50 in the islands, which also have a high prevalence of strokes among the 30,000 population.

There were more than 529 deaths due to strokes between 1980 and 1985, again the highest incidence in Britain.

Professor Michael Oliver, Duke of Edinburgh Professor of Cardiology at the University of Edinburgh, said there was a clear North-South divide on heart disease. The lowest incidence was in Oxfordshire and East Anglia.

He warned of unreliability in figures from groups of under 100,000. He said that the three major causes of heart disease, cigarette smoking, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure, accounted for only half the number of sufferers.

A food and health education programme is expected to be launched in the islands to provide dietary guidelines.

(Photograph: Nick Rogers.)

British Airways aim high with new Boeing 767s

British Airways make no secret that its corporate goal is to be the best in the business.

And the company's recent decision to order 11 new Boeing 767s clearly supports that high ambition.

The new jetliners, powered by Rolls-Royce engines, meet the airline's key requirements for top performance, economy, high reliability and superior passenger appeal. After a thorough review of all the possible choices, British Airways selected the best.

Boeing congratulates British Airways on its search for excellence, on its decision to grow with the 767, and on its continuing dedication to the best service for the travelling public.

BOEING

The Next look for children

By Alexandra Jackson

It should no longer be possible to tell a British child by its ill-fitting, unfashionable clothes.

Next, the high street chain which has revolutionized the adult clothing market, is opening 40 specialist children's clothes shops in the next six weeks. It aims at a nationwide chain of at least 200.

Seventeen of the shops, christened Next BG (Next Boys and Girls) will open today in centres around the country, ranging from Glasgow, Blackburn and Nottingham in the North to Maidstone, High Wycombe and London in the South. There will also be two shops in Dublin.

Mr George Davies, chief executive of Next, said the target market was the increasingly fashion conscious two-year-old to 12-year-old age group. Many of the clothes are variations on themes developed successfully in the adult market by Next's design team.

The clothes are in the middle to upper price range and have three separate themes: Preppy, a sporty casual look; Girls' Team, a softer feminine style combined with fashionable denim; and Boys' American, a more masculine look.

The children's clothes market in Britain has been poorly served by the retail trade although it is said to be worth at least £1.2 billion annually. However, Marks & Spencer and Woolworth are now investing heavily in this market as are established companies such as Mothercare.

Man's auction of a lifetime

By Craig Seton

The man who spent more than 50 years gathering two million items of English memorabilia stayed home yesterday rather than watch his collection sold for £34,500 in seven hours.

However Mr Roy Wells, a retired caretaker from Newark, Nottinghamshire, is already collecting again and dreaming of setting up a mobile museum of social history with the proceeds.

Mr Wells, aged 72, refused to make the 15-mile journey from his Newark council house to a river-side warehouse at Saxilby, Lincolnshire, where his lifetime's collection was auctioned in 800 lots to about 500 buyers from Britain, the Continent and the United States.

Thomas Mawer and Son, the Lincoln auctioneers handling the sale, said: "He was not here because he does not want to prolong the agony he has suffered at having to sell off this amazing collection."

Mr Wells's treasure trove has become to be regarded as a unique social history of everyday life in Britain stretching back to 1800.

The items were discarded by their previous owners and collected by Mr Wells from attics, shops that were closing, old offices and factories, and farms in the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire area.

He had hoped that one day the collection, which is understood to have cost only pounds to amass, would be found a home in a museum. Unfortunately no museum was large enough to take the collection which had to be sold when it outgrew the three chicken sheds where Mr Wells stored it on a farm.

In the sale, the lowest successful bid was £3 for a collection of scrap metal. The highest was £800 for the contents of a blacksmith's shop.

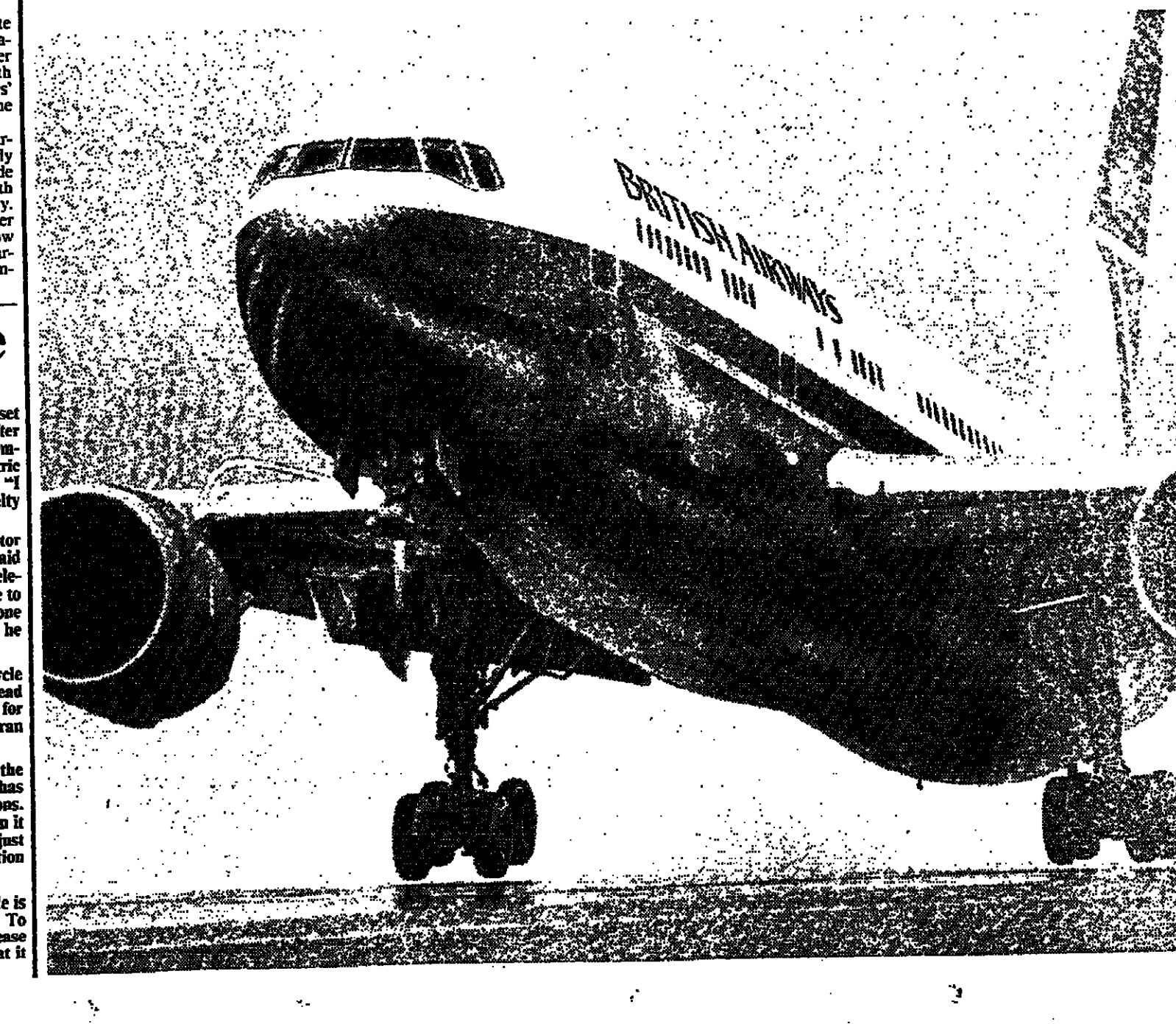
Mr Trevor Penke, a Nottingham actor, paid £35 for a battery operated shock machine which was used, he said, by the Edwardian smart set who linked up hands after dinner parties to give themselves a therapeutic electric tingle from the appliance. "I just bought it for the novelty value."

Mr John Copit, a motor trader from Mansfield paid £100 for six bakelite telephones. He wanted just one to adorn the 1933 red telephone box in his front garden, but he had to buy the six as a lot.

A Triumph Moller bicycle with a steering wheel instead of handlebars was bought for £420 by a member of a veteran cycle club.

Mr Clinton Singsby, the auctioneer, said: "The sale has exceeded all our expectations. We could not put a value on it because some things have just never been sold at auction before. It is unique."

He said of Mr Wells "He is not interested in money. To him collecting was a disease and now he is very sad that it has to be sold."



THE LIBERAL ASSEMBLY

We must have an intellectual strategy, delegates told

The second section of the merger debate, on "Liberal values and objectives in the present political situation" was introduced by Mr Richard Holme, a member of the national executive committee and a former president of the party.

He said that there had to be an intellectual strategy to go with political strategy. They did not want a better collection of ideas than Labour. They wanted a better intellectualism than the Tories (applause).

"We need a new realism in the Alliance. That does not mean adopting Thatcherism, but it does mean moving on from Thatcherism. We have got to hold fast to our Liberal values, but we have got to adapt them to the world in which we live and not to any fantasy world of wishful thinking."

They should have more competition, higher standards, performance assessment, better consumer protection. The basis of the incomes strategy should be re-examined. Private monopoly should be as objectionable to them as public monopoly.

They must rediscover the Liberal tradition and the Liberal belief in the power of competition within a properly regulated market place.

"We Liberals in the new alliance party have got to rediscover our historic purpose of liberating people. We should be a party of pluralism and a party of people. We are still living in this party in the intellectual capital of 10 or 20 years ago."

Mr Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, said it was time that Liberals concentrated on capturing the

centre of the political debate. It had to be in the terms of the 1990s. They would be facing the same issues whether or not they were forming a new party.

They did not need lectures from the Conservatives on free enterprise and the market economy. The Liberals had always believed in those things.

They had to do more work on policy to deal with crime, the biggest threat of all to freedom.

"Our policy has been so caricatured that we have to start again and make sure that never again is this party accused so wrongly of not caring about the defence of freedom. The potential for the new party was limitless."

Mr Michael Steen, Todmorden, who had been a Liberal for 30 years, said that he had

joined a party committed to the realignment of the left.

After three years of mounting frustration with the sterile form the Alliance had taken they should emphatically reject the term and concept of Alliance (applause). "It was a term laden with good in 1981 and became sterile in the past three or four years."

They should go back to the realignment of the left as the broad test of where they stood. If they said they were centre, they allowed left and right to define where they stood.

"I do not want the Labour and Conservative parties to define where I or we stand."

Mr Simon Hughes, MP (Southwark and Bermondsey), said that the greatest problem of the country would be the legacy of

Thatcherism. The liberalism of the Liberal Party said that the Earth and its fruits were for the stewardship of the human community as a whole. Social democracy was a natural ally in that.

Socialism had failed because, like Thatcherism, it had defined political goals in economic terms. "We do not limit our task like that, nor do we have the socialist record of failure. Labour has left out thousands in its attempts to redistribute freedom by central government diktat."

Lord Heslop said that the party needed more than anything else, a think tank to bring it up to the date with the changes of the past two decades. Many things which had happened in the Thatcher era would endure - international control of much of industry, centralization of power and

transfer of economic power across national boundaries.

The think tank should give the electorate a clear view of the themes of the new party and what it intended to do to tackle the problems they would have when they gained power, which was what politics was all about.

Mr Gordon Lishman, Pendle, said that social democracy, as articulated by the founders of the SDP, was fully consistent with current Liberalism. There were two traditions within both parties. There was the Liberal tradition which had gone into the Labour Party between 1949 and 1950. There was also the tradition about the role of the state. They could form a new party which was wholly Liberal, in which both Liberals and Social Democrats felt at home.

Work quickly, Steel orders merger team

A call to the merger negotiators to get on quickly with their job came from Mr David Steel, the party leader, at the Liberal Assembly in Harrogate yesterday.

The merger was "no take-over", he told delegates, who gave him a standing ovation.

"It will take a brief period of discussion to forge our new party of Liberals and Social Democrats."

"Serious deliberations are necessary and valuable in setting up our new direction, but I beg you, let them be brief. Let the deliberators be locked in a room for a month if necessary but let them get on with it."

He added: "The economic and social problems of this country will not wait for us. If we want to be the hope of millions then the sooner we turn our energy outwards, the better."

"And long before we meet together at the first annual conference of the new party next year, as I hope we shall, we should have stopped talking to each other and started talking to the public."

At the start of his speech during the fourth section of the assembly's merger debate, Mr Steel said that the performance as an Alliance at the general election had been no mean achievement - the second highest share of the vote for a third force in British politics for more than 50 years. He said that nearly one in four of their fellow citizens and some splendid victories.

"It was not a bad result, but it was not a good enough result. It fell short of what we had hoped

to achieve and what we all felt in our bones might be possible."

There is no doubt in my mind that where we failed was that we did not succeed in realizing our full potential. On June 11 we won seven million votes. It might have been, and it could have been, millions more, and that is what we are debating today."

The policy platform on which they had stood was solid, though we can all suggest improvements.

"But it was on the strategy and direction of the campaign that we were unfortunately divided. To have placed so much stress on the balance of power was a mistake (applause). To have compounded that by hinting at a possible coalition with Mrs Thatcher was an even greater mistake" (renewed applause).

He added: "But in case you think I am getting at someone else, I accept my share of the blame." His attempts during the campaign to correct those defects were "less than brilliantly successful."

He was brought up on the early political injunction that "if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who will prepare him for the battle?" The truth was that the Alliance gave an uncertain sound during the election campaign.

Throughout the campaign, in constituency after constituency, people were asking: "Why two conferences? Why two policy-making bodies? Why two leaders?" It was intolerable to pretend that it was not so.

He asked delegates not to play the press game of worrying about the separatist MPs. That would be for the new party in

the constituencies to decide.

"Rather let us concentrate on winning over a 43 per cent minority in the SDP who voted not for separation but for closer links with us."

He and the new SDP leader, Mr Robert MacLennan, both wanted to show those doubters that the only genuine and effective closer links were to be found in one united body.

Mr Steel said that leading articles praising Dr David Owen made him think of what had been said of Flaubert: "He is immensely unfortunate in the kind of people who admire him."

The values of Liberalism and of social democracy, both founded on a synthesis between individual freedom and social justice, had never been more relevant in Britain than throughout the late 1980s.

"We need to win the battle of ideas before we can hope to win the election, and the new alliance party must not be the cosiest prospectus ever, but the most exciting and most challenging."

As they looked to their internal deliberations, it would be wrong to think of the constitution and the principles of the new party as two different things slapped together.

They were, or ought to be, reflections of each other. For instance, if one believed in democracy, or in participation or in accountability in society, one must apply those principles in one's own party.

He wanted to take the fire, energy and enthusiasm of the Alliance, too much of which had been misdirected in the last Parliament, and use it to solve the problems of Britain.



Mr David Steel: People were asking on the doorsteps "Why two conferences; why two leaders?"

Leader comes under attack

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Mr Richard Wainwright, a senior Liberal MP in the last parliament, infuriated his former parliamentary colleagues yesterday by choosing the middle of the party's assembly to restate his demand for the replacement of Mr David Steel as leader.

Mr Wainwright, a long-standing opponent of Mr Steel, published an article in a local newspaper, the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, saying Mr Steel was "a man of the failed Alliance" and should go once negotiations to merge the Liberals and SDP were complete.

He later predicted that Mr Steel would be challenged for the leadership of that new party from within the ranks of the current Liberal MPs and singled out Mr Paddy Ashdown, Mr Alan Beith and Mr Malcolm Bruce as likely successors.

However, a source close to Mr Steel dismissed Mr Wainwright as "a prickly Puritan of the old school of Liberalism" fearful of any sort of progress because it involved compromising political purity.

Mr Wainwright believes that Mr Steel's credibility has been seriously eroded by the events which have followed an election campaign in which he preached the virtues of his partnership with Dr David Owen.

Call for talks on disabled

A prime factor in discussions with the SDP on forming a new merged party should be the rights of disabled people, a motion agreed by the assembly commission on people with disabilities said.

The motion stated that those rights included equal access to work, leisure, housing, income, health, education, transport and the political process. It will be considered by the assembly tomorrow.

City policy to be developed

Proposals concerning problems of "short-termism" in industry and the criteria against which takeovers and mergers should be examined will be developed by a working party over two years.

A three-day commission on the City, which reports to the assembly on Friday, agreed the guidelines of the working party yesterday.

Business today

Today, Mr Robert MacLennan, leader of the SDP, will address the assembly. There will be debates on animal welfare, the government of Scotland, AIDS, Government education policy, the divide between regions and the decline of shipping.

CONSTITUTION

Power must go to the people

Mr Rodney Kent, leader of the Alliance group at Harrogate, speaking in the fourth section of the debate, on "Why King of New Party", said that it must gain power pragmatically, then hand power back to the people.

Mr Richard Livsey, MP for Brecon and Radnor, said that this must be a marriage by consent. He said that in a new party that was not based on the interests of the people.

Miss Margaret Clay, of the Association of Liberal Councilors, expressed grave doubts about the SDP constitution. This could be an area of severe difficulty. Apart from the member, one vote, the SDP constitution was very highly centralized.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft, former MP for Leeds, West, said that the mechanism of the new

party needed four facets: to encourage participation; maintain accountability; be authoritative; and energize campaigning.

"We must not try to entrench policy in advance of agreement. That would be the old politics of two blocks trying to settle things in advance."

Mr Clement Freud, former MP for North East Cambridgeshire, said that they should create a new party with style and vision that would appeal to the people outside who wanted them to succeed, not a party which wanted to develop by slugging off the other two parties.

"We must mobilize thinking voters with our policies which must be as defensible as those of Socialists and Conservatives."

BBC inquiry demand

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Alan Watson, the former *Panorama* presenter, demanded yesterday that the results of an internal BBC inquiry into a highly contentious *Newsnight* poll on the eve of the general election should be made public.

Mr Watson, a past president of the Liberal Party, told the assembly that the poll of 60 marginal seats, one of a series supervised by Mr Vincent

Hanna, had shown Labour closing on the Conservatives and had triggered a massive return of waverers to the Tory camp in the last 48 hours.

"Television persuades people what is likely to happen and that triggers electoral intentions," he said. The BBC had announced an internal inquiry into those polls. Its findings must be made public, he said.

DISCUSSION OF POLL

Election failure for Alliance 'was result of having two parties and two leaders'

Election failure for the Alliance was a result of having two parties and two leaders, many speakers told the assembly during the first part of the debate on merger with the SDP.

Mr William Wallace, candidate for Shipley at the election, introducing the section on the Alliance before and during the election, said that the Alliance had started to grow together in its first two years, but got it wrong after the 1983 election when the natural process of growing together was interrupted.

"Our problems stemmed from the insistence of the Owenites that all moves towards close collaboration meant merger and must be resisted."

When Dr David Owen listed the fundamental differences, it was remarkable how hard he had to look for them.

"I and others bear the scars of those six years of trying to find common ground. I know it was there and being frustrated by a package of caricatures."

They had to learn how to protect Liberalism in a wider political grouping. They had a basis for a wider political party. They were rather more than half-way to a single party already and had to get the rest of the way down that road.

Mr Alan Watson, Richmond and Barnes, said that no one had

bounded the SDP or the Liberal Party into merger. That had gone to the top of the agenda because in hundreds of constituencies thousands of canvassers had been told by millions of voters that two

leaders were ready to hold the balance of power."

Mr Alex Carlile, MP (Montgomery), said that he was acquiescent to a merger, but not an enthusiasm. The new party would have at least as much work to do as the old parties combined if it was to project itself to the forefront of national consciousness.

It was his view and that of Liberals in Montgomery that it would not be a disaster if merger foundered.

From the experience of the election it was clear that the unity and credibility of the Alliance had been thrown into doubt by the lack of a clear leader.

"It is crucial that neither negotiations for merger, nor the future of the new party should be infected by the disease of constant leadership speculation."

Any MP who staked a claim to leadership before principles and constitution were settled disqualified himself, in his eyes, on the ground of ambition.

They would retain their full measure of autonomy in Wales in the new party, otherwise they would not join it.

Miss Gillian Ganner, Summerston and Fife's constituency, said that she was not ready to form a government, and because we were not ready to form a government neither

they had all depended, had fallen apart. She asked delegates: "Who was in that back room at Cowan Street and how did they ever have the nerve to come out again?"

Mr Alex McGivray, of the SDP and former SDP national agent, said that those in the SDP committed to the Alliance had had to fight for their cause.

He was critical of "people who stood for one member, one vote walking out of our party democracy."

There were times when he wondered if it had all been worth while. "But being here this week with all of you as political allies and friends makes me realize that it was."

Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, began by telling delegates that he would resist the temptation to say "I told you so" because this was a time to look forward and not backward, to concentrate on what could be and not what might have been.

"I urge every Liberal in the land to have the vision, the courage, and to think not in negative terms, not basically even in merger terms, but rather in terms of creating something new, something great, something wonderful. Don't chicken out."

The general election had demonstrated the need for one leader leading one party. Mr

David Steel had clearly found himself in a difficult situation because of his leadership, but he had handled himself well.

How could the Owenites know the outcome of negotiations before they had even taken place? Liberals should give the negotiations their backing. If they failed, that would be the time to argue.

Mr Smith was given a standing ovation.

Mr Des Wilson, president of the Liberal Party, said that never, never again must they approach an election "in a state of endless debate and negotiations with ourselves instead of dialogue with the country" (applause).

Never again must they fight an election with two leaders with fundamentally different views. Nor must they confront the country divided.

He had worked every day in the campaign with Dr Owen who was as much a victim of the position as were the Liberals.

"Whatever you think of his views, he compromised and he did his best to play the team game."

"Whatever we think of how he has behaved since, we have to be fair and acknowledge that if the system was not working for the Liberals, it was not working for him or Social Democrats either."

RECONCILIATION

'Liberal' must stay in party title

Delegates cheered when the title of "Liberal" to be part of the title of any new party was emphasized by Mr David Alton, Liberal Chief Whip and MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill.

Opening the third section of the merger debate, "A new party", he said that Liberals had been hurt by silly accusations about being petty, unreliable, anarchic and even lazy.

The hand me-downs of the past, he said, had not worked during the summer to try to bring about reconciliation, to work for fusion.

Mr Alton said: "I want to bring to this new party Liberal values and traditions and it is important that the word Liberal is included in the new title."

He wanted to see a party that included Liberal traditions and organization and he thought particularly of the decentralized and federated structure of the party.

In creating the kind of country they wanted they must be prepared to work with others who shared their objectives. "And I find it staggering that any of those who until recently appeared to those high ideals, fighting alongside us, have ridiculed and reviled us and now feel unable to come with us in our new enterprise."

Mrs Doreen Goodwins, chairman of the Liberals of Plymouth, Devonport, the consti-

tency of Dr David Owen, said that the word marriage was preferable to merger.

There were cheers when she said that she did not want haggling over seats, something that had taken up so much time at the last election, and she suggested an electoral pact just with the present sitting MPs "because in Plymouth, Devonport, we have a first class constituency MP".

It would be almost impossible to find a person of his calibre to stand against him. She believed that he would be re-elected at the next election, under whatever banner he stood, simply because he had such a great personal following there.

Mr Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro, said that they should be consulting the members of both parties by getting the negotiators out into the regions to invite involvement and open discussion.

Mr David Vassmer, Bury North, said that all bodies representing different areas of interest in each party must be

clear in time for the local elections.

Mr Rob Wheway, Coventry South West, believed that it was better to take the time and get things right. This was too serious a matter for people to be swept along euphorically.

Mr Andy Ellis, secretary general of the party, said people were waiting for the message that there was a non-socialist alternative to Thatcher.

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COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

There could hardly have been a greater contrast between the full day's debate on merger at the SDP conference, a fortnight ago, and yesterday's discussion in Harrogate.

At Portsmouth the Social Democrats sustained a consistent level of mutual hatred at a high level of rhetoric. Here yesterday, the proceedings had more the tone of a seminar. There was much agreement, and where differences were expressed there was not the same clash of passionate dispute.

The contrast is easy to explain. The Liberals are overwhelmingly in favour of merger, they are confident it will take place and they do not feel threatened by the process. All that was reflected in the assurance of Mr David Steel's short speech. None that for some time, he seemed a leader at ease with his role.

All this suggests a reversal in the character of the two parties. One does not usually look to Liberal conferences for debates that are so disciplined as to be dull, for self restraint that is excessive and for an air of confidence that they know where they are going.

But there has over the years been more of a change in the nature of Liberal conferences than has been widely appre-

tion of the free market and a new emphasis on the needs of the consumer. As Mr Richard Holme put it: "We need not a better collectivism than Labour, but a better individualism than the Tories."

Even on the most controversial issue of defence there has been some movement of opinion. There are still the unilateralists in the party. But there is now a wider acceptance of Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, unless and until a disarmament agreement renders it unnecessary.

No longer does it seem to be beyond the pale to acknowledge that after the next election there may be no alternative to keeping Trident, though nearly all would prefer not to think too much about that yet.

In one sense all this may be seen as a trend towards more Owenite thinking among Liberals just at the time when Dr Owen himself is considered a pariah by most of them. I would also regard it as a reluctant tribute to the influence of Mrs Thatcher.

After her third election victory there is now a spreading awareness among all opposition parties that they will have to come to terms with the experience of these past eight

years, without having to approve everything that the Government has done.

Not all of them have absorbed this truth. But it was Dr Owen's achievement to be the first opposition party leader to appreciate it. Now the Liberals seem to be moving in that direction, even if they are doing so more hesitantly.

This ought to make it easier to reach a reasonable degree of agreement on policy for a new party. But one consequence of the greater Liberal confidence about merger is that it inclines the party to take the non-Owenite Social Democrats too much for granted.

There is still widespread reluctance at Harrogate to offer the SDP any reassurance on policy beyond a declaration of general principles which would be included in the new party's constitution. Most senior Liberals know that they will need to go further than that, probably with a statement from leading figures in both parties.

But there are two schools of thought as to whether this intention should be made known to the conference. If it is not, I suspect there could be some damaging misunderstandings ahead.

Police chiefs seek end to defendants' silence right

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Two of Britain's leading police officers yesterday called for suspects' right to silence to be removed.

That, they said, would be the most important step towards control of crime that Parliament could introduce.

Mr Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was speaking at the International Police Exhibition and Conference '87 being held in London.

He was supported by Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and President of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Both men said the police would like to see a situation where a court was able to comment on or draw inferences from the fact that a defendant had been silent when questioned by police.

Mr Imbert added that he accepted that new legislation should also include a framework for confessions obtained by police to be supported by corroboration in court.

However, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had already provided new safeguards, he said.

Mr Imbert was speaking on the problems of police officers.

He said: "I think the balance of justice altered in various ways in favour of the defendant by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act could and should be improved by a removal of the so-called right of silence."

"It is a puzzle to me how a 'privilege against self-incrimination', for that is what it really is, ever gained any sort of respectable place in the English legal tradition."

Mr Imbert said: "If we are

to deter people from criminal acts then increasing the prospects of conviction for them would be a most significant step."

Both Mr Imbert and the chief police officers' association would like to see the issue debated and considered by the Home Office for inclusion in a new criminal justice Bill.

Mr Imbert said: "I believe the removal of the privilege against self-incrimination would be the most important step legislators could take to control and reduce crime."

He said it was impossible to quantify the effects of the right of silence on the conviction rate but there was anecdotal evidence to show it had a detrimental effect.

He said: "I am calling for the matter to be properly debated. We are asking that if a person goes to court and if he then puts forward some defence at that point the judge can comment on that. Why did he not put forward that defence when he was being questioned?"

Mr Imbert said there were cases where police were certain of guilt but because the suspect had remained silent there had been no prosecution. The Commissioner agreed that changing the right of silence was "slightly shifting the burden of proof from the prosecution to the defence."

Mr Anderson added that the association supported the call and had compiled evidence on the situation.

He said that the courts should be able to comment on instances where a suspect had been silent but might properly have been required to speak.

Huge success rate of crime fight idea

Crime Stoppers, the American reward system soon to be introduced in London by Scotland Yard to fight crime, has solved 92,000 cases, recovered assets worth more than \$560 million and gained 21,000 convictions.

The figures were given yesterday to the conference by Mr Richard Abell, Assistant Attorney General in the United States.

Crime Stoppers uses funds from industry or commerce to pay rewards to anonymous informants who help police to catch offenders. It is linked to publicity highlighting a particular crime week-by-week in a city or area.

Earlier this year it was evaluated by Scotland Yard and will soon be introduced in London after promises of support from businessmen. Small rewards would be paid.

Mr Abell said the system had a 95.5 per cent success rate in the US.

He showed the value of such ideas by pointing out that a Federal study recently suggested that 80 per cent of all 12-year-olds in the US would become victims "of completed or attempted violence crimes during their lifetimes."

A high school study in 1985 showed that two thirds of children had used drugs at least once before leaving school. More than 17 per cent had used cocaine once.

The problems of that particular drug were highlighted by Mr Larry Joiner, chief of police in Kansas City, who reported the case of a man who went from using \$600 a day of crack, a refinement of cocaine.

When the man was arrested by police he had carried out 33 robberies in 11 days — one per cent of the total robberies in the city for a year. He was jailed for 15 years.

Parting tribute to the romantic royalist



By Lynda Murrin

Sir Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, with photographs of the Queen by Sir Cecil Beaton which form part of an exhibition opening at the museum tomorrow.

The 100 exhibits in the show, called *The Royal Photographs of Sir Cecil*

Beaton, cover 42 years of the Royal Family. They were chosen from an archive of 8,000 given to the museum by Miss Eileen Hose before her death last month.

She worked closely with Beaton from 1953 to his death in 1980 and inherited the negatives and prints of royal portraits which he had declined to sell.

Sir Roy, who steps down as director at the end of the year, recalled how when he began his museum career at the National Portrait Gallery, Beaton was sent along by *Vogue* to photograph him.

"I looked like a frightened schoolchild", he said, adding that it was "a marvellous picture". His career later took off in 1968 when he

organized an exhibition of Beaton portraits at the National Portrait Gallery.

"Cecil was a romantic royalist who emphasized the continuity of royalty", Sir Roy said.

One of the many writing projects planned by Sir Roy after his departure from the V&A is a book about Beaton. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Parachute man saw friend die

A parachute man watched helplessly as his friend plummeted to her death over farmland in Essex when both her chutes failed to open.

Mr Stephen Phillips, of London Road, Shenley, Hertfordshire, who had jumped from a Cessna aircraft with Alison D'Aguiar, aged 21, of Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex, said his girlfriend's reserve parachute was totally out of shape as she fell.

The inquest, at Walthamstow yesterday, heard that Miss D'Aguiar had made 44 jumps.

Mr Roger Buckle, a British Parachute Association rigger, said he adjusted her equipment a week before the fatal jump on August 15, and it had been in working order.

Staff Sergeant Norman Nesbitt of the Army Parachute Association said he found no fault in the main chute but if Miss D'Aguiar had not pulled out the pilot chute far enough, it would not drag out the main chute.

Mr Anthony Butler, safety officer, said: "Nothing could have been done to prevent what happened. I do not believe she did anything wrong."

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure on Miss D'Aguiar, who died from multiple injuries, the coroner, Dr Harold Price, said: "Sports such as parachuting have an inherent risk. The manoeuvres that she was undertaking may have had some psychological effect so that she did not pull her main cord properly. No-one will ever know."

Ferry life-jacket 'did not fit'

By David Sapsted

A mother who lost two sons in the Zebrugge ferry disaster told a Dover inquest yesterday that one of them died because she could not get a life-jacket over his head.

Mrs Sheila Perkins, from Hastings, said that she had spent almost an hour and a half in the near-freezing waters inside the Herald of Free Enterprise before she made contact with her son Simon, aged 18.

"He looked dazed. He was talking to me but I knew something was wrong. I thought he was just cold", she said.

Mrs Perkins and Mr John Wycombe, a lorry driver, tried to get a life-jacket over Simon's head but "it just would not fit". Her son slipped away into the darkness

Zeebrugge inquest

Mr Michael Stacey, the carpenter aboard the ferry, has been called to give evidence to the inquest after renewed allegations that a call for him over the public address system shortly before the sinking was, in fact, a disaster emergency code.

Townsend Thoresen has denied the use of such a code and evidence given by a steward after the sinking suggested that the call had been made and they could not find him again.

She said: "John Wycombe was propping me up. I gave up several times, especially when I saw Simon go". Eventually she was hauled to safety.

Mrs Perkins' eldest son, Darren, and his girlfriend, Miss Nicola Payne, both aged 20, also died in the tragedy on

March 6, the inquest into 188 deaths aboard the Herald was told. A third son, Anthony, now aged 20, survived after being in the water for two hours.

Hypothermia was given as the cause of Simon's death. Pathologists reported that both Darren and Nicola had drowned.

MP refuses to retract BBC job bias claim

The Labour Party's spokesman on broadcasting yesterday rejected a demand from the BBC chairman to withdraw a suggestion that the Conservative Party influenced the appointment of a corporation executive.

Mr Robin Corbett, MP for Birmingham, Erdington, protested last week at the selection of Mr Howell James as director of corporate affairs. He is special adviser to Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Bankrupt tobacco heir 'not short of money'

Mr Christopher Dunhill, the tobacco heir, revealed yesterday that he was "not short of money thanks to his sister".

Mr Dunhill, aged 32, said she lent him £17,000 after he was declared bankrupt in 1981, denies handling the two carpets and 39 stolen tapestries.

He said he had taken the tapestries as a security on £5,000 loan to a friend, John Wood, without knowing they were stolen.

Police found the goods after catching Mr Dunhill supplying cocaine, it was said.

The case continues today.

Engineer's body is recovered

The body of a civil engineer trapped in an underground culvert at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, was recovered yesterday.

Robert Hutchings, aged 41, had been working on a sluice governing the level of water in a lake on the Duke of Marlborough's estate when a rubber bung burst, releasing millions of gallons, Thames Valley police said.

The force of water propelled him into the culvert.

The Duke had joined firemen, ambulance crews and estate workers in efforts to rescue Mr Hutchings, of School Road, Seend, Wiltshire.

During the night a channel was dug around the sluice taking water away

Glass men get record offer for their jobs

By John Cooney

Waterford glass workers have been offered redundancy lump sums of up to Ir£87,000 each, a record by the austere economic standards of the Irish Republic.

The company, whose hand-cut crystal is famous worldwide, wants to shed 750 of its 3,000 workforce.

The radical rationalization plan comes as a result of the company's merger last year with the equally famous Wedgwood China company.

Although the Ir£20 million redundancy package, which represents half the current annual profits, is a record in the Republic, there is little prospect of alternative employment for the uniquely skilled glass blowers and cutters.

Those with the maximum 30 years' service will qualify for Ir£87,000 — though the Irish tax man will take more than Ir£20,000 of that.

At the lower end of the scale, clerical and general staff with 30 years' service will get a maximum of Ir£48,000.

The package is negotiable to allow the longest-serving employees to opt for a reduced lump sum and a deferred pension payable at 65.

The redundancy scheme only blunts a bitter blow to the internationally renowned glass industry in Waterford. The unions refuse to comment. But within hours of the offer being made, up to 100 employees had taken up the company's offer of free advice from a firm of financial consultants.

Initial indications confirm that the company will comfortably meet its rationalization deadline of October 5.

Court refuses holiday plea

An Eastbourne borough councillor accused of unlawfully killing a man aged 70 was refused permission to go to Portugal on holiday by magistrates in the town yesterday.

Mr Len Smith, aged 41, of Rotunda Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, was given bail for two weeks. Mr George Greenlow, from Bexhill, East Sussex, died on August 11, several days after being allegedly assaulted by Mr Smith.

Mr Taylor was remanded in custody until September 29.

New charge in gun theft case

Ian Taylor, of North Kensington, west London, who is charged with stealing a secret Piccolo machine gun and an automatic shotgun, was further accused of shoplifting when he appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, yesterday.

Mr Taylor was remanded in custody until September 29.

Polite Society picks Wogan

Terry Wogan and Jimmy Young have agreed to be honorary life members of the Polite Society, founded by the Rev Ian Gregory in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

British firms face growth in complaints

Complaints to Brussels under EEC competition law by British firms and against them are likely to increase, Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said yesterday.

He told the conference that many British businessmen were "getting to grips" with the impact of EEC competition law and the role of the European Court at Luxembourg and of the European Commission in Brussels.

Sir Gordon said that private actions in the British courts to enforce the competition law, Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome, were also likely to increase.

Those administering United Kingdom competition law were increasingly aware of the international and trans-national implications of their activities, he said.

In developing competition policy, Britain looked to overseas experience for comparisons.

He said that competition policy on the professions had been influenced by experience from other countries compiled in studies by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This had helped the UK "in making progress in opening up the professions, to free competition and the right to publicize services."

The Office of Fair Trading was pursuing other restrictions, such as those on mixed partnerships between professionals (such as lawyers with accountants, surveyors with lawyers), which might be unreasonably inhibiting competition.

Miners faced 'grave intimidation' Bitter legacy of coal strike

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

The "fall out" from the miners' strike which ended in March 1985 is still affecting industrial relations in the British coal industry today, lawyers at the International Bar Association conference in London were told yesterday.

Mr Ronald Cowles, legal adviser to British Coal, said productivity in the industry had reached record levels but "industrial relations are far from harmonious".

Although the level of industrial action was lower than in recent years before the strike, the coal industry still had 35 times the British average number of strikes in proportion



INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

tion to its labour force, he said.

"The average miner works eight times as many hours through strikes as the UK average worker."

The strike had had far-reaching changes on a number of fronts, Mr Cowles told lawyers: the entire basis of industrial relations has been transformed by the emergence of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers which was formed from the breakaway area unions and was registered as a new trade union in December 1985.

The industry had reached agreement with the union giving it full negotiating rights whereby it represented the majority of mineworkers.

Some mineworkers still remain dismissed with no prospect of re-employment with British Coal, while some working miners who faced "grave and hostile intimidation" had been forced to leave the industry, he added.

Efforts have also been made and are being made to strengthen the laws to prevent a recurrence of some of the worst features of the strike.

"It is difficult to imagine that any of this was ever

contemplated by those who called for strike action."

However the effects of the strike have extended beyond the coal industry, he said. The Public Order Act 1986 resulted largely from the strike, with its new statutory offences of riot, violent disorder, affray, fear or provocation of violence and causing harassment, alarm, or distress.

The Act gave police powers to restrict and impose conditions on public processions and assemblies and created a criminal offence out of picketing activities, and increased dramatically penalties for offences under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875. During the strike 275 people were charged with offences under it.

However, the "major trading nations of the world, all with advanced arbitration systems, exceeding in depth and range the model law, the problem is much more difficult."

The UK had a real interest in the cause of harmonizing international trade law.

"Given that this country already recognizes certain differences between domestic and international arbitrations, it seems to me undesirable that there should be introduced by statute two wholly separate systems."

Government policy indicated the lack of sympathy for the position of individual employees, at least those who have "the temerity to assert their right not to be unfairly dismissed".

He said: "This approach causes many managers disquiet and is, of course, totally unacceptable to the unions. It is certainly not a recipe for constructive industrial relations."

In some cases, such as the teachers, legal tactics had

backfired on employers, and the great majority of ballots have favoured strike action.

Mr Lewis said the Government's labour law reforms since 1979 had also been marred by "an underlying attitude that trade unions are not legitimate social partners."

There appeared to be no such reduction in strikes in public administration and education. "Indeed, the deficiencies in the official strike statistics lend credence to recent survey evidence suggesting an overall increase in industrial action since 1980."

However, Mr Lewis said it was questionable whether the public and private sector — have been prepared to take, certainly to threaten, legal action", he said.

"Within the trade unions, this seems to have encouraged tighter control over local militants so as to minimize the legal risks."

Mr Lewis said that to some extent this justified the claims by the Government that the legislation had been successful, and it intended to reinforce it further in the next session with the appointment of a commissioner to support litigation by members against unions. There would also be the introduction of unqualified individual legal rights to disassociate from unions, and not to take part in strikes.

However, Mr Lewis said it was questionable whether the

Model law 'would be wrong for the UK'

The United Kingdom should not adopt the proposed new "model law" for the settling of international disputes by arbitration, Mr Justice Steyn, a judge of the Commercial Court in London, said.

Instead, he told lawyers that there should be a restatement of English arbitration law in the form of a statutory code.

The question of whether the UK should adopt the model law is being considered by the Departmental Advisory Committee on Arbitration, of which Mr Justice Steyn is a member.

"For countries with no, or virtually no, identifiable arbitration law, or for countries with less developed systems, the attractiveness of adopting the model law as a ready made package is manifest."

However, for the "major trading nations of the world, all with advanced arbitration systems, exceeding in depth and range the model law, the problem is much more difficult."

The UK had a real interest in the cause of harmonizing international trade law.

A fifth package, *Standing On Your Own Two Feet*, is a guide on how young people should assess themselves and make career choices.

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Three fined after pithead dog fight

By Ian Smith

An undercover operation by the RSPCA special investigations unit yesterday resulted in the sixth prosecution this century for dog fighting.

The RSPCA is concerned about the nationwide increase in the sport, in which Staffordshire bull terriers are pitted against each other and thousands of pounds are bet on the outcome.

At Makersfield magistrates court, Lancashire, Keith Devine, aged 27, of Heath Street, and David Twist, aged 18, of Wigan Road, both of Golborne, near Wigan, were fined £250 each and banned from keeping dogs for two years.

Both men have received telephone calls warning them that they would become targets of anti-bloodsports campaigners.

A third man, James Rogers, aged 26, of Bank Street, Golborne, was fined £150 for assisting with the fight, held

on waste ground behind Golborne colliery. One dog received mouth injuries.

Supt Don Balfour, deputy head of the investigations unit, said dog fighting had become big business. There were three categories of fight: those organized by high-class villains who waged thousands of pounds, those run by workmen, and those held by teenagers who took pets into a park to fight because they thought it the "in thing" to do.

Mr Balfour said hundreds of fights were believed to take place each year, but the unit had great difficulty breaking the secrecy which surrounded each contest.

The men who appeared before the court yesterday were prosecuted under the Protection of Animals Act, 1911. The maximum sentence is a fine of £2,000 and/or six months' imprisonment.

Careers advice for the young goes on video

By Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Careers advice for young people will soon be on sale in the High Street alongside pop records and videos.

The Manpower Services Commission has invested £200,000 in a series of videos giving practical advice on careers in electronic engineering, sport and recreation, agriculture and the hairdressing and beauty trade.

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The videos, produced by Utopia, will be marketed through Virgin, WH Smith and similar shops. They are aimed at the 13 to 18 age group and if the scheme succeeds, up to 100 videos describing what different jobs have to offer are planned.

Mr Geoffrey Holland, director of the commission, said at the launch in London that careers, education and training information should not be shut away. The first five videos go on sale on September 28 at £9.95.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Britain 'leads' in family planning

Washington — Britain leads the developed world in making birth control available to its people, and the US ranks seventh, according to a report by Population Crisis Committee, a leading American population control group (Michael Binyon writes). Developed countries were rated on a 30-point scale according to the spending on family planning, the availability of contraceptives and other indicators.

Britain scored 29, followed by West Germany (28). The US had 25. Bottom of the 15 developed nations was Romania, with 3, and next to bottom was the Soviet Union (11).

Among developing countries, Taiwan was considered to have done best, closely followed by Singapore and South Korea. Laos, Libya and Cambodia received zero ratings, the group saying that virtually no family planning services were available. A spokesman said the world needed to move from double spending on family planning and accused the US of abandoning leadership in birth control and family planning aid, which had declined by 20 per cent since 1985.

Israelis kill boy of 12

Jerusalem (Reuter) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a 12-year-old Palestinian boy and wounded another Arab yesterday during demonstrations marking the 1982 massacre of Palestinians at two Beirut refugee camps, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli military sources said the cause of the boy's death was not clear but that the other Palestinian had been shot in the chest by a soldier trying to disperse protesters throwing stones at an army position in the Balata refugee camp on the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian sources said the two were shot in separate demonstrations marking the anniversary of the massacre by Lebanese Christian militiamen in the Sabra and Chatila camps.

Two fighters crash

Brussels (Reuter) — A Belgian Air Force pilot was killed when his F 16 fighter aircraft crashed on landing at a Belgian air base, an Air Force spokesman said yesterday. The pilot ejected just before the crash on Monday night at the Kleine Brogel base, but he hit the ground and died instantly.

The accident brought to 16 the number of US-designed F 16s Belgium has lost since it began taking delivery of just over 100 of the planes in 1979. In another accident yesterday, a Norwegian F 16 crashed into the sea west of Trondheim but the pilot escaped unhurt.

Jaruzelski Collision for Berlin inquiry

Warsaw — General Jaruzelski of Poland arrives in East Berlin today for a day of talks with the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker (Richard Bassett writes).

The general's visit, coming less than a week after Herr Honecker's tour of West Germany, is the Soviet bloc's first attempt to take stock of the recent meeting of the two German leaders.

Herr Honecker's movements are followed closely by the Poles, who are haunted by the ghost of a united Germany. But the Polish press, while denouncing "revisionist tendencies" in Bonn, praised the meeting as a "diplomatic success" for East Germany.

Facing refugee influx

Hong Kong (AFP) — Mr Emrys Davies, the British Ambassador to Vietnam, and Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State responsible for Hong Kong affairs, arrive here today for a meeting on Friday on the problem of Vietnamese refugees, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Government said yesterday.

There has been concern at what local politicians consider British lack of willingness to talk to Hanoi on possible refugee repatriations. Many refugee arrivals in recent years are believed to be economic migrants seeking a better life. Hong Kong is at present home to some 9,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Norwegian poll shock

Far-right party doubles its vote

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Norway was in a state of shock yesterday after mid-term elections in which an extreme right-wing party, previously regarded as a fringe group, more than doubled its vote, emerging as the nation's third largest party.

The Progress Party garnered most of its increase among 15,000 seats on 19 county and 448 municipal councils at the expense of the ruling Labour Party and the Conservatives, whose previous coalition government collapsed last year over a budget crisis. With more than 12 per cent of the vote — an increase of about 6 per cent over the 1983 local elections and almost 9 per cent over the 1985 general election — the Progress Party's platform of severely restricted immigration, swinging cuts in taxes and public spending, and encouragement of the private sector augured a volatile two years until the next general election.

One obvious reason for the success of the Progress Party, which had been widely predicted but not on such a scale, was the high degree of concern with the increasing numbers of political asylum-seekers and refugees, expected to total 10,000 this year.

Mrs Helen Boesterud, the Minister of Justice, last week estimated that only a quarter of those seeking asylum in Norway were true refugees; the remaining 75 per cent, she said, were really in search of better jobs. "It is highly unjust that people with the money and resources to make the

Russians take notes as Nato fights its own battle

From Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent
Hannover

Inside the village hall of Rodewald, north of Hannover, Warsaw Pact and Nato officers sized each other up across the "classroom".

The two Soviet colonels, with their oversized military hats on the table in front of them, prepared to write down all the details for that morning of the German 1st Panzer Grenadier Division.

The 14 senior officers from the seven Warsaw Pact countries had arrived for the briefing in a luxury coach, one of the many facilities laid on under the new Stockholm agreement, signed by 35 nations, which came into force on February 12 this year.

The Russian officers, noticeable for their hats and their khaki shirts worn outside their trousers, are here to observe Nato's exercise "Certain Strike", and to make full use of their rights under the new "confidence-building" agreement.

Once Major-General Helge Hansen, the 6ft 6in commander of the 1st Panzers, had



A West German soldier giving last-minute instructions to East bloc and Western observers during the Nato exercise.

outlined the war plans involving "Blue Forces" (Nato) and "Orange Forces" (Warsaw Pact), the sharpest questioning came from his fellow Germans from across the other side of the Berlin Wall.

Was the manoeuvre planned for that day already fixed, or was the commander able to make his own decisions on the spot, Colonel Alexander Kostin commented. "Everything is going according to plan," he then

declined an interview on his observations of Nato manoeuvres, but added somewhat quizzically: "It's normal for US military officers to give private interviews to the press, but not now." He then

climbed back into the coach to return to the Nato battlefield. Somebody had asked him about glasnost, but he said that he was not able to talk about political glasnost.

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Apart from the 14 Warsaw Pact observers, there are also 18 officers from other countries, including Nato members. It was suggested that the Nato observers of the Nato exercise were observing the Warsaw Pact observers.

The other East German officer, Colonel Günther Lehmann, who said he was an infantry staff officer and had been trained at the Soviet Military Academy, claimed that he had no particular interest in the strengths and weaknesses of the West German forces.

The Warsaw Pact observers, who have come equipped with cameras and video gear, arrived in West Germany last week for the declaration of war and the build-up to the start of "Certain Strike". According to American officials, they began by making many protests about the smallest details, including the failure to provide them with a sketch map.

Ex-President Ford rallies to defence of Judge Bork

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The former President of the United States, Mr Gerald Ford, appeared before the Senate judiciary committee in an unprecedented move yesterday and fiercely defended the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the nine-member Supreme Court.

His appearance at the opening of what will be long and bitter confirmation hearings underlined what is at stake for both liberals and conservatives in trying to shape the political character of the court. No former President has ever taken such an unusual step.

Mr Ford praised the judge effusively, saying he was uniquely qualified. He had distinguished himself as a federal appeals court judge, as Solicitor-General, as a professor of law at Yale University, and twice as a partner in one of the country's leading law firms.

But Senator Edward Kennedy, reflecting the fierce opposition from the liberals, attacked Judge Bork over his



Mr Robert Bork: on his way to yesterday's hearings.

record on the rights of women and blacks, bitterly accusing him of adopting "extraordinarily extreme and biased positions".

"Rather than selecting a real judicial conservative, the President has sought to appoint an activist of the right whose agenda would turn us back to the battles of a bitterly divided America, reopening issues long thought to be settled and wounds long thought to be healed," he added.

The hearings will take about two weeks, with two days set aside for questioning Judge Bork about some of his controversial legal opinions. The final vote is likely to be close and will almost certainly be taken by the full Senate.

Mr Ford kept Judge Bork on as Solicitor-General after succeeding President Nixon. He said the judge's record had been exemplary. He defended Judge Bork's controversial firing of Mr Archibald Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor, on President Nixon's orders.

The former President said Judge Bork had "acted with integrity to preserve the continuity of both the Justice Department and special prosecutors' investigations. History has shown that his performance was in the nation's interest."

Judge Bork's supporters are pinning their hopes on his intellectual abilities and considerable charm to counter accusations that he is a heartless and extreme conservative. Liberal groups spent hundreds of thousands of dollars for newspaper advertisements yesterday attacking his record.

Property firm chief cleared of fraud



Mr Tan, the former chairman of the Carrian property group, refusing to talk to reporters outside the court after hearing that the fraud charge he faced had been dismissed.

Hong Kong (Reuter) — After an 18-month trial that cost a record £3.7 million, the former head of the collapsed Carrian property group, Mr George Tan, and five others were yesterday found not guilty of conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Tan, his deputy, Mr Bentley Ho, business associates Mr Rogerio Lam and Mr Stephen Lam, and accountants Mr David Begg and Mr Anthony Lo were found to have no case to answer over allegations that they conspired to defraud Carrian's shareholders and creditors by inflating the company's profits in 1981.

"There is nothing now in this trial on which Mr Tan and Mr Ho can be tried and therefore they have no case to answer," Judge Dennis Barker told a packed courtroom.

He said the two auditors from the big American accounting firm, Price Waterhouse, and the Lam brothers were victims.

"There were false entries in ledgers, false deposit slips, false paying-in slips and transfer vouchers. False minutes were created," he said.

Hong Kong-based Carrian once controlled an empire that stretched from property to insurance and shipping. It collapsed in 1983, leaving more than £600 million debts.

The verdict followed 25,000 pages of testimony and six months of committal proceedings before the men came to trial. But it did not end the legal battle.

Mr Tan, who is Malaysian, Mr Ho, the Lam brothers, and a lawyer with Hong Kong's second biggest law firm all face trial for fraud in the sale of an office building in 1980.

Mr Tan and Mr Ho, as well as a former Carrian secretary, Carrie Woo, also face trial for bribery and fraud in connection with a complaint from a local subsidiary of Bank Bumiputra, Malaysia's biggest bank and a leading Carrian creditor.

Yesterday's verdict has already prompted an outcry from local legislators, who have asked for a government inquiry.

Britain defends VAT exemptions

From A Correspondent
Brussels

A European Community call for Britain to charge VAT on new buildings, live farm animals and a number of services to industry was condemned yesterday as an attack on the fabric of the British nation.

Speaking during a hearing at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, Mr David Vaughan, QC, defended Britain's right to set a zero rate of VAT in pursuit of social

policy goals. He told the court that zero rating was not "a funny Anglo-Saxon habit" but a vital part of government policy.

If the court, whose judgments are binding on Britain, finds against the Government, extra VAT charges will add thousands of pounds to the price of a new house, place a burden on industry and add to the cost of building new schools and hospitals.

The European Commission

lawyer, Mr David Gilmour, told the court that the EEC did not question the principle of zero rating on grounds of social policy. The objection was to a system that gave equal relief from VAT to local authority housing and a millionaire's residence.

But Mr Vaughan told the court that Britain's housing tax system was far from indiscriminate.

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Tunis call for death sentences

By Susan MacDonald

The State Prosecutor in the Islamic extremists' trial in Tunisia has demanded "just punishment" for the crime of treason, which in Tunisia is the death penalty.

It has been revealed in court that seven of those accused of involvement in the hotel bombings in August, which injured 12 British and Italian tourists, were already under arrest at the time of the bombings. They said in court that they did not belong to the Islamic Tendency movement, and had admitted membership only under police torture.

Ninety alleged members of Islamic Tendency, of whom 40 are being tried in their absence, are accused of terrorist activities and plotting to overthrow the state. The majority were arrested last March and the trial was already scheduled for the end of August when the hotel bombings took place.

Only one of the accused, Mehrez Boudega, has admitted making the bombs, although he said that he did not plant them.

The head of the movement, Mr Rashid Ghannouchi, who was interrogated by the State Security Court on Saturday, denounced the hotel bombings and repeated that they were not the work of the movement, which disapproved of violence. Mr Ghannouchi and the others have also denied the charges of treason and collusion with a foreign power (Iran).

Another extremist group, Islamic Jihad, has said it was responsible for the bombings.

Beirut hostages 'chained up in darkness'

From John England
Bonn

A West German hostage in Beirut, freed by his kidnappers last week after eight months in captivity, has revealed that he and another West German were kept in darkness and sometimes chained.

Herr Alfred Schmidt, aged 47, who was kidnapped last January, has told the West German magazine *Quick* that he and his fellow captive, Herr Rudolf Cordes, aged 53 — who is still being held — were imprisoned together but never knew why they had been kidnapped.

They had no idea that their captors were using them as hostages for the release of a suspected Lebanese terrorist, Mr Muhammad Ali Hamadei, who had been arrested at Frankfurt airport only days before they were abducted.

"I never knew what was going on in the world," Herr Schmidt is quoted as saying. "Rudolf Cordes and I were given no newspapers, we were

not allowed to listen to the radio or see the news on television. Above all, our guards never told us anything about the negotiations for our release."

The *Quick* interview with Herr Schmidt at the West German Embassy in Damascus, soon after his release on September 7, is the first detailed breaking of Bonn's news blackout on the two hostages. The magazine, on sale today, released the full text of its story to *The Times* yesterday ahead of publication.

A West German government spokesman was surprised to hear about the interview, but repeated what Herr Friedrich Ost, the chief government spokesman, told a press conference last week: "Herr Schmidt is a free man."

Herr Schmidt, an engineer with the Siemens electronics concern, and Herr Cordes, of the Hoechst chemicals group, were kidnapped separately within a week of the arrest of Mr Hamadei, aged 22, at

Frankfurt airport on January 13. He was detained when three bottles of liquid explosive were found in his baggage after a flight from Beirut.

The kidnappers, believed to be members of the radical, pro-Iranian Shia Hezbollah (Party of God) organization,

New York — The 42nd United Nations General Assembly convened yesterday for a 12-week session with promise of the organization's central role in the Gulf conflict bringing it greater authority and relevance than it has enjoyed recently (Zoriana Pysariwsky reports). Washington's interest in using the UN as a diplomatic weapon in its Gulf strategy was seen as the largest factor in its comeback.

told Bonn that the hostages would not be released until Mr Hamadei was freed.

However, Washington then put pressure on the West German Government to extradite Mr Hamadei to the United States to stand trial for

the hijacking of a TWA airliner in 1985 and the murder of a US Navy diver passenger.

Bonn took the middle course and announced in June that Mr Hamadei would go on trial in Frankfurt charged with air piracy and murder, as well as attempting to smuggle explosives into West Germany.

Mr Hamadei's brother, Abbas, aged 27, who was arrested at Frankfurt airport on January 26, is also in jail in Frankfurt and is expected to be tried for alleged involvement in the kidnapping of the two West Germans.

Herr Schmidt told *Quick* that, despite their occasional chaining, he and Herr Cordes were not ill-treated by their captors. "We even had almost friendly relations with some of them," he said.

During the early days of their captivity, he and Herr Cordes had been moved frequently to new quarters all of which were normal flats. "Our guards were always careful to

naïl up and seal the windows," he added. "No daylight came in." He and Herr Cordes also suffered from a lack of fresh air, and the heat in summer gave them problems.

Their meals at first consisted of unleavened bread, yoghurt and potato crisps. Later they were allowed to cook their own lunches with Arab food bought by their captors and given 10 cigarettes a day. Herr Schmidt said his release came as an absolute surprise.

Herr Schmidt's firm is reported to have paid a ransom of £1.2 million for his release. Speculation continues in Bonn that the West German Government has made a deal with the kidnappers which will mean early freedom for the Hamadei brothers.

But Herr Schmidt made no mention of the ransom report in his interview with *Quick*, nor does he talk about Herr Cordes's present condition. The Government spokesman would also not comment on the reports of a deal.

Italy fears Iranian reprisals as Gulf fleet sails

From Roger Boyes
Rome

The Italian Navy set sail for the Gulf yesterday, equipped with some of the West's highest minisubmarine technology, 3,000 cans of Coca Cola and a row of James Bond and Sylvester Stallone videos.

"We are well-prepared," said one of the commanders, as the three frigates, three mine sweepers and two support vessels prepared to leave southern Italy for more troubled waters.

Iran has warned Italy that it will strike back, and there is much

trepidation in the country. The departure, broadcast live on national television, has captured some of the excitement of the British fleet's sailing to the Falklands. But mainly there is anxiety about terrorist reprisals.

The Italian decision has been a long time coming. At first the line of the Foreign Minister, Signor Giulio Andreotti, set the tone of discussion. He insisted that peace-keeping in the Gulf was the United Nations' responsibility.

That position was criticized by both the United States and Britain, and then increasingly by the Italian politi-

cal parties. The turning point came when an Iranian speedboat shot at an Italian container vessel in the Gulf earlier this month.

Within days the Cabinet had decided on independent naval action. But the decision had first to be put to Parliament, and though the Government secured votes of approval in both houses — despite communist opposition — the overall effect was to slow the dispatch of the Italian ships.

One fear in Italy has been that the country is probably more exposed to terrorist attack than other West Euro-

pean countries active in the Gulf. The Abu Nidal attack on Rome airport 18 months ago, lingers in the public consciousness and the recent discovery of a large cargo of Iranian arms (some of them, ironically, Italian-made) has reinforced these worries.

The ships, with a complement of 1,200 men, are under the command of Admiral Mariotti. The Italian press, in the absence of other news while the ships prepare for action, has been concentrating on the culinary aspect of the mission, presumably reasoning that a Navy flirts on its stomach.

Growing toll in Afghan skies

Moscow blames West for rebels' missile successes

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The death of all 15 people on board a Soviet-built Afghan transport plane, blown up by a Western missile on Sunday, has brought to more than 150 the number of those killed in rebel attacks on planes used in Afghan civil aviation since the beginning of the year, *Pravda* reported yesterday.

The incident in which the Antonov 26, carrying six crew members and nine passengers, crashed in flames close to the northern Afghan town of Kunduz was used by the Soviet media yesterday to highlight the gravity of the threat now being posed by US-made Stinger and British-built Blowpipe missiles in the hands of the Muslim rebels.

"According to the competent Afghan bodies, the number of mobile anti-aircraft missile systems in service with the counter-revolutionaries has grown sharply of late," the *Pravda* correspondent reported from Kabul.

"This resulted from penetration from Pakistan and Iran of new detachments and groups which underwent training there and the redistribution of the US and British missiles among groups operating in the most important areas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan."

The paper added: "There are reports that at the gunships of mobile anti-aircraft missile systems, there are not only terrorist mercenaries who receive huge sums of money for hitting targets, but their foreign instructors, too."

Reflecting the Kremlin's concern about the intensified air war over Afghanistan, the Soviet armed forces' paper, *Krasnaya Zvezda* reported in

another despatch from Kabul that a new system of incentives had been introduced among the rebels. "Bandits get two Stinger missiles for each shot-down plane," it alleged.

Western diplomats said that the articles and other recent comments in the Soviet media confirmed reports from Western embassies in Kabul that the air war had now reached its most serious stage for the

also believe that it is causing a serious shortage of trained Afghan pilots and a slump in morale among those making the daily flights over possible ambush positions.

According to accounts in the Soviet press, the tally of lives lost in Afghan planes shot down in 1987 includes, in addition to those killed on Sunday:

Thirty-six people killed



The Stinger missile (above), weighing just over 13 kg, is a light-weight, shoulder-fired guided missile system. Developed by the US Army Missile Command with General Dynamics for the threat beyond the 1980s, it has an effective "friend or foe" identification system. The Blowpipe missile, weighing 14 kg, is a hand-held weapon for protection against low-flying aircraft. Made by Short Brothers of Belfast, it proved effective in the Falklands and can down helicopters or be used against tanks.

Soviet and Afghan armies since the original Soviet invasion in late 1979.

Although the Soviet accounts pointedly refrain from giving any figures for Soviet planes and helicopters shot down by the rebels' growing arsenal of heat-seeking missiles, Western observers have put the total in recent weeks as high as one a day.

The growing competence of the guerrillas in firing their newly-acquired weaponry is known to have forced the Soviet commanders to alter military tactics, severely cutting back the use of helicopters. The Western experts

when a transport plane was shot down while taking off from Kabul on February 9.

Fifty who died when an Antonov hit by a missile exploded over Afghanistan's eastern Zabol province on July 11.

Eleven killed in an attack on an Antonov shot down 25 miles from Kabul on August 13.

Six killed on September 1 when another Antonov 26 was hit by rebels as it was about to land in the eastern Khost region.

Soviet officials also claim that a further 40 people died when an Antonov 26 was

attacked by a Pakistani fighter near the border on March 30. Pakistan alleged that the plane, which it said bore military markings, had intruded 10 miles into its airspace.

The new potency of the guerrilla units is believed to have been one reason for the unexplained cancellation in July of a press trip from Moscow for more than 40 Western journalists invited to Kabul by the Afghan leader, Dr Najib, to observe the progress of the unilateral ceasefire which he declared in January.

The same group of reporters who flew to Kabul on that first occasion were flown internally in ageing Antonov 26s while encircling helicopters fired flares at the rate of about one a second on landing and take-off in an attempt to divert any heat-seeking missile attack. The planes corkscrewed steeply both up from and down to regional airstrips, making the flights both long and disconcerting.

Pravda recalled yesterday that the first attack on a civilian airliner came in 1985 when rebels used a US surface-to-air missile to bring down a plane with 52 people on board near the city of Kandahar.

"It seemed then that that mad act, which was wrathfully condemned by the Afghan people, would be the last one and that the civilized state across the ocean proclaiming one of its main goals the fight for human rights, would not dare to put deadly weapons into the hands of hired killers," the paper added. It stated that subsequently the White House had announced the delivery of 900 more missiles to the rebels.

Delhi protest broken up



Indian policemen beating a demonstrator with batons yesterday after preventing a protest march from reaching the President's Palace in Delhi and handing in a petition against the increases in the price of basic foods, which has been brought about by the severe drought.

Indians fire on Tamil rebels

From Vijitha Yapa Colombo

The Indian peace-keeping force in Sri Lanka yesterday fired at Tamil Tiger guerrillas at Eravur, in the Eastern province, in the first recorded direct confrontation between the two groups.

The shooting was the first tough action taken by the Indians since the Tigers rampaged through the Batticaloa district on Sunday, massacring unarmed members of rival militant groups.

A group of Tamil Tigers were dragging away a member of a rival group, the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, when they were confronted by an Indian patrol. Shots were exchanged and two Tamil Tigers were captured.

The Tamil Tigers, the most powerful of the guerrilla groups, have been feuding with members of three other Tamil rebel organizations.

So far more than 150 people, many unarmed, have been reported killed, although police say the figure could be much higher because some bodies are believed to be hidden in the jungle.

The Tamil Tigers have accused the Indians of supporting their rivals and there has also been criticism that the Indians have done nothing to stop the feuding.

An Indian government spokesman said that the fighting was happening because the various groups had not surrendered their arms, as set out in the peace accord between Sri Lanka and India. There is speculation that the Indians will now have no alternative but to track down the guns which have not been surrendered.

Britain to join £300m high-technology projects

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Britain will take part in 17 out of 58 new advanced technology projects by Western European industrial nations, approved here yesterday at the Eureka ministerial conference.

The estimated cost of the projects in which Britain will participate is £300 million. There are now a total of 165 agreed Eureka projects, with a total value of more than £2.8 billion.

The large number of new projects approved was described by Señor Luis Croissier, Spanish Minister of Industry and Energy, as proof of Eureka's "enormous vitality."

In a final communiqué the 32 ministers present welcomed the readiness expressed by various European bankers' organizations to "establish co-operative links with Eureka."

The Eureka scheme, intended to combat the high-technology challenge to Europe from the United States and

Japan, was launched under a French initiative just over two years ago.

The ministers from 19 countries also approved the participation "in exceptional cases" of companies and research centres from non-member countries, including Eastern European countries like Hungary and Yugoslavia, in specific projects.

"The most attractive feature of the Eureka projects to apply advanced technology in European industry is that they are industry-led, companies themselves judge the market opportunities to be aimed at," Mr Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, told the conference. "The growing level of involvement shows that the flexible industry-led approach of Eureka is successfully stimulating collaboration between European countries for world markets."

The new projects with British participation include very high-rate optical transmission systems, advanced underwater robots, industrial

applications of high-powered lasers, and automatic telephone assembly processes.

Britain, with full participation in a total of 57 projects, now replaces West Germany as the second most active Eureka nation after France.

Mr Clarke said Britain is to sponsor a management development workshop in London on November 20 to help the growing number of small and medium sized firms tackle the new problems European collaboration poses.

The projects approved yesterday show a shift away from the emphasis given when Eureka started to telecommunications and information technology, with projects now in transport, industrial robotics and biotechnology, experts noted.

Future Eureka financing proved one of the dominant themes of yesterday's ministerial debate. Britain's argument that Eureka's success was now sufficiently evidenced by the growth of industrially financed projects was

shared by West Germany and Switzerland.

Mr Alain Madelin, the French Industry Minister, announced two government measures designed to ensure Eureka projects' survival as they approach the marketing stage.

He invited the other member-nations — those of the EEC, plus Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Turkey — to copy France by giving preferential tax relief to firms participating in Eureka projects, and announced the start of a state-aided insurance premium scheme to guarantee high-risk projects.

Dr Karl Narjes, vice-president of the European Commission, which is also a member of Eureka, gave a warning of the EEC countries' need to uphold the Rome treaty's rules on competition.

"The more market-orientated the publicly funded research and technological development is, the greater the risk of a distorting effect on competition," he said.

Mozambique border war

Pretoria-backed rebels make more raids into Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Harare

South African-backed Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) guerrillas have carried out a significant diversionary offensive into south-east Zimbabwe, striking at a third new area along the country's 520-mile border with Mozambique.

No confirmation could be obtained from the Government, nor have any reports emerged in the local press of events in the desolate and remote south-east during the past week.

But a variety of sources have confirmed that on Monday last week two members of the Department of National Parks' investigative branch, who were on anti-poaching operations, were shot dead by Renamo in the Gonarezhou national park. They were named as Mr Martin Marimo and Mr Martin Sibanda.

The following Wednesday, six peasant farmers near the Chikombedzi mission, in the Matibi No 2 communal land at the southern tip of the park, were bayoneted and axed to death by Renamo. The deaths were confirmed by medical missionaries in the area.

On Friday a band of about 100 rebels were surrounded by Zimbabwean troops, who called in a jet strike for assistance.

This incident was the biggest clash that Renamo has had with Zimbabwean security forces since June 15, when the organization made its first strike into Zimbabwe, in the Rushinga district in north-west Zimbabwe.

Attacks have also been made in the Chipinge area, about 80 miles north of the northern tip of Gonarezhou. The last reported incident was two weeks ago, when an army vehicle following a group of rebels struck a landmine.

The park, containing some of the roughest terrain in the country, with an elephant population notoriously aggressive after decades of

poaching, was closed to the public indefinitely last week.

Among recent poachers have been both Renamo rebels and Mozambican government soldiers. Sources confirm that two Mozambican soldiers in camouflage uniform were shot dead by a Zimbabwean anti-poaching unit earlier this year.

Last week's incidents occurred in the middle of an elephant "culling" programme, which ended last week with the shooting of 1,000 animals. Recent visitors describe the area as almost waterless and with no vegetation for animals to feed on.

Aid agency sources said that the village near Chikombedzi had been deserted, and there

was now a strong military and police presence in the area.

The effects of Renamo's incursions are having a profound influence along the border. In Rushinga, foreign aid workers have stopped their inoculation programmes out of fear for their safety.

The Government has announced that, in future, all Mozambican refugees — many of whom are suspected of aiding Renamo — will have to be registered and contained in refugee camps.

In the mountainous Chipinge area, white commercial farmers have formed liaison committees with security authorities, and politicians of the ruling Zanu (PF) party are constantly in the region to facilitate the restructuring of the party to ensure maximum

vigilance and rapid reporting of "strangers".

The eastern border splits families and people of the same tribal group into citizens of different countries, and crossings to and from Mozambique occur all the time. Most of them are made by Mozambican refugees fleeing their Government's own war against Renamo.

About 350 miles of the border was mined by the Rhodesian Army during Zimbabwe's liberation war, and attempts to "neutralize" it have been futile. The mines have little effect on the refugees, more than 40,000 of whom are officially reported to be in camps for "displaced" Mozambicans.

The geography of the border varies from hot, undulating, dense bushveld to mist-enveloped mountain peaks, with only a small section of it having roads or any other development. Military sources describe it as being impossible to police effectively.

The Zimbabwean security forces are believed not to have the resources for protecting the eastern border and also fighting a war against "disidents" in the western provinces of Matabeleland, maintaining a strong presence along the South African border, and supplying personnel for an operation against Zambian rhino poachers in the Zambezi valley in the north of the country.

At the weekend Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, presided over the passing-out parade of nearly 5,900 men of the Sixth Brigade, the second full brigade raised since independence in 1980, which brings the strength of the Army up to about 42,000.

Colonel Lionel Dyke, a former Rhodesian paratrooper and the most senior white officer in the Army, who trained the brigade, described the men as "itching for a fight like a pack of wild dogs".



was now a strong military and police presence in the area.

Villagers sacrifice man to gods

Dhaka — Superstitious villagers in south-eastern Bangladesh killed a young man and threw his body into the sea as a human sacrifice to the gods to keep a dam of a shrimp farm from breaking, the pro-government daily *Janata* said (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Police said the man, aged 22, was caught and ritually killed by a group of villagers. The dam, owned by a shrimp farmer, was about to break, threatening the heavily fortified islands of Kinnaman and Matsui, the official Central News Agency said.

Link forged

Bonn (Reuters) — West Germany and Albania have established diplomatic relations after Albania dropped its demands for Second World War reparations.

Name game

Peking (Reuters) — China hopes to lure rich benefactors into helping to fund the 1990 Asian Games by naming sports stadiums after them.

New notes

Rangoon (Reuters) — Burma's national bank is to issue banknotes of 45 and 90 kyat to replace three denominations of notes scrapped earlier this month in a ploy to foil black marketers and counterfeiters.

Men missing

Moscow (AP) — Two Soviet soldiers who had been on a military mission in Libya have been reported missing, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Back pay

Amers (AFP) — A French farm labourer, aged 49, who worked for more than 13 years without pay, has been granted 530,000 francs (£53,000) by an industrial tribunal.

Spanish claim to sovereignty over Rock

Gibraltar takes its case to the EEC

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Spain will be watching hawk-eyed today's visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg of a delegation from Gibraltar led by Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, and Mr Joe Bossano, Leader of the Opposition.

The two leaders plan to address meetings of any interested Euro-MPs with the aim of explaining Gibraltar's opposition to Spain's sovereignty claim to the Rock.

The two were invited by Lord Bethell, British Conservative Euro-MP for London North-West and chairman of the Gibraltar in Europe Representation Group, who is expected to take them to call on Lord Plumb, the British president of the European Parliament.

What is stressed in Strasbourg as a "private visit" will require some deft political footwork for, apart from Spanish susceptibilities, the two Gibraltar politicians are likely to face each other again in a general election due some time in the next eight months.

The visit is highly charged

for Spain because Madrid dislikes Gibraltar politicians taking the initiative and seeking to explain their case to MEPs of other nations. It insists that any settlement of the Gibraltar problem must be arrived at during direct negotiations with the British Government.

Spanish opposition to the visit started even before Spain joined the EEC. Madrid had it postponed several times, and succeeded in having it down-



Sir Joshua Hassan: a right to decide Gibraltar's future

graded from an official visit. The visit now takes place before the additional scrutiny of Spanish opposition to the EEC air transport liberalization package because of Gibraltar airport.

Today's visit particularly puts a strain on the European Democratic Group in Strasbourg, consisting chiefly of British Conservative and Spanish right-wing Popular Alliance MEPs, many of whom have sharply differing



Mr Joe Bossano: airport row seen as a litmus test.

views on the Gibraltar question. There have been threats in Madrid that the group will break up.

Lobbying has been going on by Spanish MPs to try to get other member nations' MEPs not to turn up today. The Gibraltar politicians will be clearly disappointed if only British MEPs listen to their case. "I hope the Spaniards will understand we have a right to go as members of the EEC," Sir Joshua emphasized, explaining that his purpose in addressing the Euro-MPs will be "to tell them of the real situation in Gibraltar and of our right to claim our own future."

Mr Bossano, leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party, which opposed the 1984 Anglo-Spanish Brussels agreement, under which the bilateral talks on the future of Gibraltar are held, highlighted the Gibraltar airport row before leaving for Strasbourg.

"We regard it as a litmus paper test of the bona fides of the European Community towards Gibraltar," he said.

Dutch police baffled in hunt for industrialist

From A Correspondent, Amsterdam

Despite receiving more than 200 tips, police in The Netherlands have made little progress in the hunt for a Dutch industrialist who disappeared mysteriously last week.

Investigators have still not established whether Mr Gerrit Jan Heijn, whose family owns one of the largest supermarket chains in the world, was the victim of foul play.

Mr Heijn, aged 56, vanished last Wednesday soon after leaving his home in Bloemendaal, about 15 miles south-west of Amsterdam, to go to the dentist. His car was found abandoned near his home. No signs of violence were found.

A police spokesman said the Heijn family had received a number of communications from people claiming to have

kidnapped Mr Heijn, but none of the messages had been confirmed as genuine. "We are waiting for a signal from the kidnappers that they have Mr Heijn and that he is well."

Mr Heijn and his brother, Albert, are the top officers of Ahold, a company which owns more than 600 stores in The Netherlands and about 200 in the United States. It grossed 11.4 billion guilders (about £3.5 billion) last year.

Mr Heijn's disappearance touched off an extensive search by police using helicopters and bloodhounds, but no signs were found of the missing man. Police are now investigating the possibility that he has been taken out of the country.

Gold fever corrupts an African paradise

From Our Correspondent Bindura

The path leads past a clear stream, hedged about with ferns, reeds and pretty high-velvet flowers and overhung by tall trees, newly leafed with the soft, bright foliage that precedes the heat which comes before the rains.

A few steps more and an ecological disaster assaults the eyes. The scene is like a huge trench on the Soume where a concentrated barrage. This is Zimbabwe's new gold rush near Bindura, 50 miles north of Harare. The stream banks have been gouged away for 15 yards on either side to form pits 6 ft wide and about 30 ft deep, some with makeshift bark-lashed ladders in them.

Mounds of rubble, clay and rock are heaped about in confusion and the muddy stream meanders through the destruction, liberally banked up to provide the miners with water.

The similarity to a First World War trench is enhanced by fire-blackened

grass and the mutilated remains of big trees, their roots sticking up like claws from the earth.

"This river is dead," Mr Goodwill Chikazhe, the regional lands inspector, said. Scenes much like those on the outskirts of Bindura can also be seen elsewhere along the once-broad Mazowe River, one of the Zambezi's important inflows on Zimbabwe's northern border, as well as along hundreds of miles of its tributaries. And it is repeated on at least five other large rivers and their tributaries, all in the central Mashonaland province.

The descendants of the Shona people in this region have for about a thousand years panned the waters of the Mazowe for the tiny flecks of gold that show up in the black grit, selling them first to Arabs and later to Portuguese traders, laying the foundations for the great Central African kingdoms.

But, in the past three years, the lure of gold has exploded into a massive

eco-disaster, and Mr Chikazhe estimates that perhaps half a million people, mostly women with no regard for prospecting laws, are temporarily settled along the rivers, sleeping under the stars or in squatter camps, to pan for gold.

Instead of the porcine quills in which their ancestors sold their gold, the women of the Mazowe pour the dust into the caps of ballpoint pens. Each capful weighs about a gram and it takes nearly 30 capfuls to make an ounce. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, to which all gold mined in the country must be sold, pays SZim14 (about £5.20) a gram.

But black market dealers — a few have been arrested, including a white South African — pay between SZim20 and SZim40. Through a succession of middlemen, the metal leaves the country illegally, losing Zimbabwe a conservatively estimated SZim10 million a year in foreign currency.

The rivers also pass through one of

Zimbabwe's most productive commercial farming areas, and the resultant silt-laden waters, thereby jeopardizing farming operations.

Little has been done to curb the gold rush; 110 illegal panners arrested in June were back at work days after paying their SZim20 fines. It needs, said Mr Chikazhe, a major education campaign, with the Government deeply involved.

Mining sources said it was believed that locally based diplomats of countries with "chronic hard-currency deficits" were also involved, shielded by their diplomatic immunity.

The environmental destruction is hugely disproportionate to the earnings. The women say they average a gram of gold for a fortnight of constant panning. But a family with an almost empty grain bin and six months to go before they can hope for a harvest — if it rains — sees little alternative.

SPECTRUM

Giving the kiss of life

Mrs Thatcher travels north today to inspect progress in the inner cities. Peter Davenport went ahead to look at a day in a task force's life

John Lister, the leader of the Government's task force for the inner city area of Chapeltown and Harehills in Leeds, gets to his desk in the small, bare room above the amusement arcade by 9.15am. Ten minutes later the first "customer" of the day is climbing two flights of stairs in the hope of turning dreams of a better life into reality.

Lorraine Cundall is young, divorced, unemployed for two years and has two children, aged seven and four, to bring up on the £39.75 a week she receives from social security. Life is not easy; she is convinced there is a better way.

She carries a small tartan suitcase. Inside are four sweaters which she designed and knitted herself. She believes her talent is her way out but she needs money to buy a knitting machine, rent a workshop and begin turning out sweaters by the dozen instead of taking up to two weeks to finish each by hand.

In an area where unemployment can touch 50 per cent one woman's ability to earn a living by knitting may not seem a giant step forward. But it is that belief in self-help and the creation of small businesses that the Government is trying to encourage as a means of stimulating the revival of the inner cities.

There are 16 task forces now in operation. They concentrate on small areas with the aim of targeting existing resources into creating new jobs and businesses and raising money from the private sector.

Lorraine Cundall is directed to see Bob Sheffa, an accountant who administers a development fund set up with £30,000 of task force money to help new businesses by providing a package of grants.

For more than half an hour he talks through her plans, detailing the costs, itemizing expenses, market research and sales potential. He promises financial assistance but asks her to return with a written proposal. Eighteen months ago an unemployed man with a similar idea for making clothes climbed the same stairs for help and advice; his business is now turning over £250,000 a year and he is increasing his work force and moving to larger premises.



"Jobs aren't created in the inner cities by the hundred so every one counts": John Lister, who heads the task force in Chapeltown and Harehills

One of the many problems in a largely residential area such as Chapeltown is the lack of workshop space for those starting their own businesses. It is for that reason that Lister and his deputy, Gurdev Singh Dahiya, can be found shortly before noon in the office of a Sikh businessman.

Amarinder Singh Sarao, who runs a large cash and carry enterprise in the Kirkstall area of Leeds, is selling an 18,000 sq ft warehouse, ideal for conversion to workshops and studio units, on the fringe of the task force area. However, he wants £425,000.

Over coffee and orange juice, Lister and his deputy begin tentative haggling. Is there a chance that the businessman's social conscience might ease the price down?

"If you offer me £5 less than £425,000 then I will have to say no," he says, pleasantly but firmly. The talk goes on for another 20 minutes before the two men from the task force leave. It will have to be considered further, but they remain hopeful.

Then it is a short drive across the city centre to the regional office of the Sports Council, where the Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, is launching an inner city sports programme for the Chapeltown and Harehills area. It will create 10 jobs for local residents, whose job will be to encourage more people to take up sport and to make better use of existing facilities. Lister has committed £17,000 to the project and there is a further

£40,000 from the Manpower Services Commission.

At the press conference attended by a few local journalists, no one asks a question. However, Moynihan is keen to push the new initiative, especially as his family are from that part of Leeds, and he says the government believes sport has a vital role to play in revitalizing the inner cities.

At 3pm Lister drives to the local authority-owned Tech North, a low, modern building where he has committed £68,000 to the purchase of 13 micro computers, now being installed into a room that will form the Chapeltown and Harehills computer school. In its first year it will help 200 eight to 16-year-olds improve their general education and learn keyboard skills.

It was the idea of a local, black school teacher who has been appointed the co-ordinator of the school. "This," says Lister, "is very impressive and it is something that

we will not see the real benefits of for some years. By then youngsters trained here on these computers will be going on to the jobs market with a much better opportunity of finding work."

Chapeltown is an area mainly of terraced housing, much of it in poor condition, which gained notoriety as a haunt of the Yorkshire Ripper and in the summer riots of 1981. There has been much work since by the local council and housing associations to improve the environment, but it remains a potentially volatile district with a proportion of disaffected, disillusioned young, mainly black, people. There are 26,000 residents in the community covered by the task force. Unemployment runs at about 25 per cent, but among young blacks it is double that figure.

Lister's next port of call is to the site of a former Co-operative dairy which the task force purchased for £40,000 to be the headquarters of Chapeltown and Harehills Enterprise Limited (CHEL), an organization created with local residents and funded by the task force which will carry on its work when the government agency winds down.

It will have a work force of 160 on the community programme (more than 80 have already been recruited) and will undertake community schemes. Currently they are working with the Police Foundation to improve home security for the elderly in the area, which has a high crime rate. Lister has committed £25,000 to that scheme and the task force has given almost £250,000 in funding to CHEL.

Each task force nominally has up to £1 million a year to spend, though some in particularly difficult areas with less-than-welcoming Labour councils have found the going hard. In his first year Lister spent some £734,000 and so far this year there have

been commitments and plans for a further £800,000. In total he reckons to have brought in another £1,500,000 from other departments. The task force, he says, has helped create 450 jobs, many on the community programme, 400 training places and assisted in the launch of 25 new businesses.

Critics argue that the jobs are not real, that the businesses are one-man bands and that the idea of the task forces is a sticking plaster when major surgery is required. When the first eight task forces were announced 18 months ago Lister, aged 47, was a principal officer at the Department of Trade and Industry dealing with regional selective assistance and based in Yorkshire.

"My director asked if I would be interested in being seconded to the job. I thought it sounded interesting and so it has turned out, more so than I bargained for. There are pressures from trying to meet the high expectations now from the community, which expects quick results from a small team. But the reward is seeing someone we have helped start making a success of their business. Jobs aren't created in the inner cities by the hundred so every one counts."

"I suppose at the end of the day, when it is decided that the task force will finish its work, success will be measured on whether we have created a substantial number of jobs and helped to give the people here the confidence that they can do things by themselves."

The voyages of Noah

A remarkable Briton who has saved thousands from the floods flies out again

Renny Nancholas had been back at his desk for precisely one day after an absence of 15 months when he packed his bags again.

The former RAF pilot, who now somewhat inconspicuously sports a ridge in one ear, was on his way back to Bangladesh on behalf of the Red Cross. He was first there to supervise the construction of concrete shelters to defend the highly vulnerable population of the Ganges delta from tidal waves which the region's 100 mph winds regularly produce.

It was a task that earned him the title of a "latter day Noah" from his colleagues at the Red Cross. His official job title is that of delegate, which means that he gives his special skills... in organization and construction... to the Red Cross for six months.

Before returning to England, he and his wife Sue, a Red Cross nurse, who had been running basic hygiene and health care programmes, had taken a month off to travel in Tibet. On the day Nancholas got back to his desk at the British Red Cross headquarters in London, he was told that his concrete shelters had successfully weathered a massive storm.

The island of Sandwip, in the Bay of Bengal, where 14,000 people had been killed by a massive cyclone and tidal wave in 1985, had been struck by another furious storm. This time, however, thousands of people successfully took refuge in the shelters. But the next day came the news that Bangladesh had been devastated by the worst floods in the region's history. Nancholas was told to put to one side a research project to consider how the British Red Cross could bring its overseas expertise to bear upon the problems of the inner cities at home and depart on a new mission. Last week he left once more to assess the situation in Bangladesh.

"Daily life there is a precarious thing," he says. "Millions of people live on land less than one metre above sea-level, which is regularly flooded. But the normal monsoon floods bring rich silt which makes extremely fertile planting ground."

"When the flood-waters subside they expose thousands of new islands, which the people call 'chars'. They are immediately colonized by the land-hungry farmers. But these places are enormously vulnerable to flash floods or tidal waves from even the smallest of the recurring cyclones."

"People are very resilient. In Bangladesh they're used to being flooded. So long as they get some help they will get by."

Paul Valley

Clones which menace the region.

A swift response is now crucial, according to the 42-year-old Cornishman, who now lives in Westbury, Wiltshire. The British Red Cross has already flown out one million water purification tablets in an attempt to combat the problem of contaminated water which has caused outbreaks of diseases that threaten to kill far more than the 700 who died in the flood.

In Bangladesh, the aftermath always kills more people than the flood itself. A good proportion of those who have died so far have not drowned but have been killed by snakebite; the snakes competing with people for what little ground remains above water. Now the threat is from dysentery and cholera.

Next it will be famine. In the great flood of 1974, only 1,000 drowned but an estimated 300,000 died of starvation. "By now people would normally have planted seeds in high ground so that there would be rice seedlings to transplant when the waters subside. A lot will depend on how much of that planting people have been able to do; according to reports, there has been very little."

Among the urgent rehabilitation projects Nancholas will investigate is the possibility of airlifting seedlings to the north of the country, which is said to be the most devastated province. Some 24 million people are said to have been made temporarily homeless by the flood. Nancholas appears undaunted by that figure.

"The League of Red Cross Societies has so far raised more than two million Swiss francs from its member societies for Bangladesh. The British Red Cross is now appealing to the public for money: Red Cross Bangladesh Appeal, Dept T1, Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EL.



The people of Bangladesh are resilient; with help they will get by

WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT

Among almost 30 projects funded or in the pipeline by the Chapeltown and Harehills task force since it was created in April last year are:

- £35,000 to build a nursery for use by mothers attending a training centre. Thirty construction jobs created and eventually six nursing posts.
- £50,000 to create the development fund to provide grants for new, small businesses, of which 25 have so far been assisted.
- £68,000 to buy computers and pay the running costs of a special computer school.
- £249,000 to fund Chapeltown and Harehills Enterprise Ltd, an organization formed by the task force with a workforce of 160 to undertake community projects.

- £132,000 to the local Jamaica Society to renovate a new centre and provide a base for a Sight and Sound training scheme. Thirty building jobs initially with 40 YTS training places to follow.
- £93,349 towards a specialist training scheme which has so far placed 21 local youngsters in the professions.
- £25,000 towards 12 places on a training scheme with the Burton Group.
- £25,000 towards a Police Foundation scheme to use community programme workers on providing extra home security.
- £17,000 towards a Sports Council scheme to encourage more uptake of sport.
- £13,000 to the Apex Trust which provides work and further training for the long term unemployed in the inner cities.

CONCISE CROSSWORD No 1362

ACROSS

- 1 Karl-Marx-Stadt (8)
- 5 Perv (5)
- 9 Jelly (7)
- 10 Western Balcian Isle (5)
- 11 Expertise (5)
- 12 Flaw (5)
- 13 Deduce (5)
- 15 Most powerful chess piece (5)
- 16 Characteristic ears (5)
- 18 Exclude (5)
- 20 Loon (5)
- 21 Lengthy scolding (7)
- 23 Wise man (4)
- 24 Suave type (8)

DOWN

- 1 Young swan (6)
- 2 Phrase highly (8)
- 3 Mch (3)
- 4 High-pitched bell (13)
- 6 Dry (4)
- 7 Litany (6)
- 8 Atmospheric pressure unit (8)
- 11 Flag (8)
- 14 Military leave of absence (8)
- 15 Reaches passage (6)
- 17 Slow in hold (6)
- 19 Stolen property (4)
- 22 Dove call (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1361

ACROSS: 1 Chant 5 Object 8 Joe 9 Batman 10 Sombre 11 Keen 12 Aulicral 14 Just So stories 17 Operator 19 Lass 21 Sexton 23 Issah 24 Nun 25 Sneaky 26 Geyser.

DOWN: 2 Heave 3 Nominator 4 Zingap 5 Onest 6 Jan 7 Cargate 13 Corollary 15 Unpunch 16 Turning 18 Tiny 20 Shame 22 Tea.

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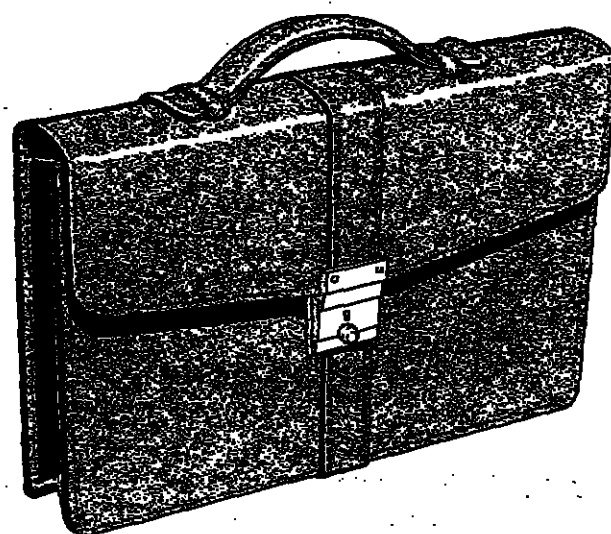
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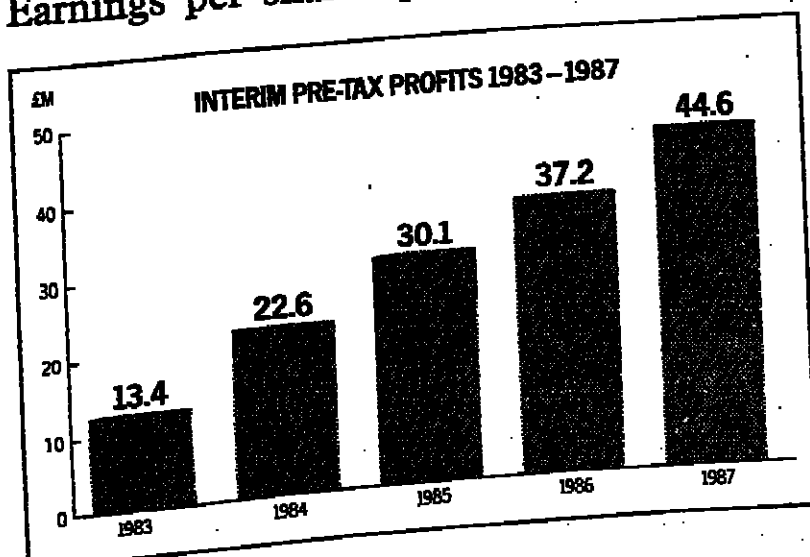


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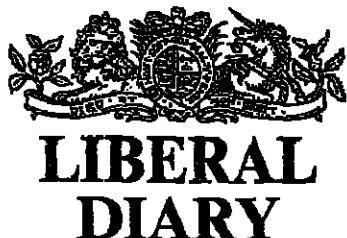
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LIBERAL DIARY

Timely retreat

Liberal whip David Alton, who looks set to use his position in the private members' bill ballot to modify the abortion Act his leader piloted in 1967, is living up to his gentle image. Word is that the Roman Catholic MP plans to spend part of the time between the merger mayhem and the return of Parliament at a monastery, to work on a book. This action is in sharp contrast to his uncharitable attitude towards Liberal president Des "The Insider" Wilson, whose *Battle for Power* on the election campaign has offended many Liberal MPs. Such is the ill feeling between the two that the traditional Liberal News rally on Monday was split. Wilson spoke at one venue with party luminaries Paddy Ashdown, Malcolm Bruce, Michael Meadowcroft and William Wallace. Alton took a smaller room down the road with cronies Cyril Smith, Alan Bethell and Jim Wallace for a "Not The Liberal News Rally".

It's catching

David Steel's visit to the International Liberal Organization meeting in Canada, which delayed his arrival in Harrogate, may prove to be his best moment of the week. When he arrived in the gallery as a distinguished stranger to the Ottawa House of Commons, his Canadian counterpart, John Turner, who has been having a rough ride recently, was subjected to a barrage of "You need him, you need him. He's what you want." One wised-up MP retorted: "Oh no. He's got troubles of his own."

● The main conference hotel, the Majestic, delighted SDP president Shirley Williams by decorating the dining room with small bouquets of flowers. They are made up of neither Liberal yellow daffodils nor golden chrysanthemums but the red, white and blue of her social democracy.

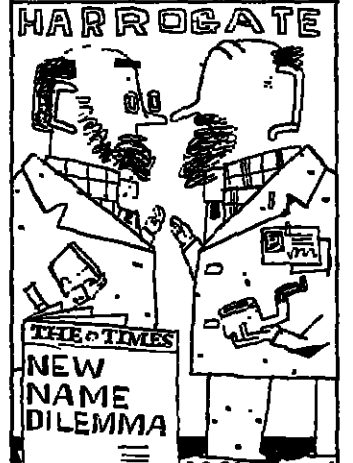
Miss list

Friday's ballot for the next Liberal president-elect, between ex-MP Michael Meadowcroft and Susan Thomas, caused Shirley Williams trouble when she addressed the assembly on the first day. Misled by an unidentified official, she failed to include Ms Thomas in her list of presidential names. Lord Tordoff, the Upper House chief whip, smoothed ruffled feathers yesterday by putting the record straight.

Home-grown

The Young Liberals may be a thorn in the side of the party's establishment, but Paddy "I'm not looking to be the next leader" Ashdown is not forgetting they are the seedcorn of the future. Three YLs, given 24 hours' notice to leave their rented London home, rang the swashbuckling Yeovil MP for help. He promptly offered them floorspace in his south-of-the-river flat until they find a more permanent resting place.

BARRY FANTONI



"I'm all for calling us the Welsh Regional Left-of-Centre Democratic Liberals"

Off beam

The Association of Liberal Councillors has managed to cause offence with its heavy-handed wit. Notices for its Mindless Activists Disco - MAD for short - show a drooling, crew-cut yob. The party's commission for people with disabilities complained that the picture is a heartless stereotype of the mentally ill. Now the organizers have apologized. However, the wags seem determined to ruffle feathers. They are now saying MAD also stands for Merge And Die.

● Liberal finances are getting an unexpected boost. Police are not allowing delegates' non-accredited spouses (and other companions) into the Majestic Hotel, even if they have booked. The only way in is for them to fork out £20 for conference accreditation and all-important ID.

Zero elated

If only electoral success was always so easy. At a recent council by-election at Redruth, in Cornwall, Olive Browne was declared the winner for the Liberals without a single vote being cast. The only other contender, a Labour supporter, standing as an independent, was disqualified after trying to dodge the six-word limit for descriptions on nomination papers. As early Alliance candidates discovered to their cost, returning officers are sticklers. If SDP counts as three words, Redruth-born counts as two.

PHS

How merger could be nuked

by Leslie Murphy

In his inaugural speech as the new leader of the SDP, Robert Maclean drew attention to the differences in SDP and Liberal policy on civil nuclear power. The way this issue has been handled dramatically illustrates the different approach to policy-making in the two parties.

The SDP appointed a high-level working party to produce a draft policy statement on energy. Members included Glyn England, a former chairman of the CIEGB, John Lyons, General Secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, Tim Burke, a director of the Green Alliance, and Maclean himself. They considered nuclear energy in the context of a thorough examination of all sources of fuel and power. Their 22-page statement was circulated to each of the 480 members of the Council for Social Democracy.

The Liberal Party merely considered a motion recommending a halt to the commissioning of further nuclear installations and a planned phasing out of all nuclear power. Liberals argue that Britain has sufficient coal to last at least 300 years; that we produce sufficient oil from the North Sea for domestic needs, and to earn foreign currency through exports. Further, why bother with potentially dangerous nuclear energy when we could develop renewable

sources such as wind, tidal, solar and geothermal power?

But though we are now producing about 2.5 million barrels of North Sea oil a day, by about the year 2000 this will halve, and will decline further thereafter. Sufficient new deposits of oil are not being found to replace depletion of existing reserves and the Middle East is still the only long-term alternative source. So demand for Opec oil will rise - from the current level of around 17 million barrels a day to around 25 million by the year 2000. The price will consequently rise and may reach \$30-35 a barrel (at 1987 prices) in comparison with the present level of \$18-20. This process will continue into the next century. If we therefore rely on coal and imported oil, we shall be back between the devil of coal and the deep black sea of oil.

That is why the working party put forward a balanced energy policy which does not rule out any efficient and price-competitive source of fuel. We want to develop our coal industry, investing in new pits and closing the inefficient; we want to continue to explore and produce from the North Sea; and we want to develop renewables if

they can supply power at competitive prices, although we recognize that the contribution from this source is likely to remain small.

But we also want to keep and develop nuclear power, insisting that the highest known standards of safety are maintained. If we are to remain competitive in world terms, our industry must be able to buy electricity at prices no higher than those paid by our international competitors. A substantial rise in the price of imported crude oil would make the price of coal and we could find ourselves uncompetitive with nations, like France, which derive most of their electricity from nuclear plants.

The energy working party's unanimous recommendation on nuclear power was cautious. Existing nuclear power stations should be continued and those under construction should be completed and commissioned, but until the full causes and implications of the Chernobyl disaster have been revealed and studied no new ones should be ordered.

At last year's SDP Harrogate conference, an attempt to call for a referendum on phasing out

nuclear policy was defeated. The conference adopted an amendment which read, in part: "We will undertake a stringent safety review of current power station designs and management, taking into account any lessons which may be learnt from the Chernobyl accident. Subject to a satisfactory outcome of this review, we will construct additional (nuclear) power stations if and when required in order to ensure that our industries are able to retain electricity at prices no greater than our competitors."

The Liberal Party assembly at Eastbourne simply had before it a motion to phase out all nuclear power. It was carried.

So the two parties have arrived at opposite conclusions on civil nuclear power. This is not a peripheral issue. Energy policy is vital to the nation and is not an issue which can be fudged.

The SDP has already rejected the policy approved by the Liberals at Eastbourne. If the Liberals really wish to merge with the SDP they should debate at their conference the motion approved by the SDP at Harrogate. If the Liberals approved that motion, we could begin to take the merger proposition seriously.

Leslie Murphy is chairman of the SDP's energy policy working party.

Grasping the thistle



Conor Cruise O'Brien observes a nationalist jamboree in Glasgow - and reflects on the troubles that Labour could have in store in satisfying Scottish aspirations

Then the speeches - only four and all surprisingly short. Two were by the master of ceremonies, a Presbyterian minister who conveyed an official message of support from the Church of Scotland and welcomed to the platform representatives of the Greens and of the Communist Party, though not the Socialist Workers. Donald Dewar, the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, was on the platform, but did not utter his silence, on top of that of the *Glasgow Herald*, added a further touch of mystery to these intermittently Scottish proceedings.

Already, I discovered, the Liberals and the Scottish Nationalists, originally billed to take part, had dropped out because of what they regarded as the Labour Party's insistence on jogging the show and making it more Labour than Scottish.

When Mr Gould rose to speak, he was greeted with boos and whistles as well as with applause. "Thank you very much for that welcome," he said with a rather tight smile. Sensibly enough, he moved on as fast as he could to the firmest common ground in sight: shared attitudes towards Mrs Thatcher.

Unfortunately, when Mr Gould was invited to lambast the Prime Minister, what came out, at one point - to Mr Gould's obvious chagrin - was not "Mrs Thatcher" as intended, but "Mrs

Scotland..." Sigmund would have been pleased; Good Freudian ships are rare, and this one was a classic.

The internal censorship had broken down, and a suppressed irritation towards the Scots had forced its way, just for a moment, out into the open.

But Mr Gould as a speaker is both competent and game and he lost no time in recovering from his slip. He drove home his acceptable message: "Total support" of the whole Labour Party for a Scottish assembly, and for opposition to the poll tax.

He sat down to the accompaniment of rather more applause, and less booing and whistling, than when he had first stood up. So on the whole, under quite unpromising circumstances, the representative from Dagenham and Walworth Road had acquitted himself pretty well.

The Scottish papers while I was there were carrying a lot of leaked material on how worried the Tories are said to be about Scotland. I'm sure they are worried, and with good reason. Yet the main impression I carried away from that festival is that possibly Labour is even more worried.

You have one kind of worry about Scotland if you don't have enough seats there. You have another kind if you do have a lot of seats but don't quite know what to

do about them. And the second kind of worry is probably more intimate and haunting than the first.

For example, if you have most of the Scottish representation in Parliament, you may find yourself, sooner or later, having to give attention to the question of whether Scotland is a nation or not. In Walworth Road, apparently, it is currently assumed that Scotland is not a nation. Mr Gould, referred to himself, more than once, as speaking for the Labour Party "nationally", and "at national level". For him, clearly, the nation is the United Kingdom. But it seemed that, for most of the Scots participating in the Festival, this is not the case.

The speaker after Mr Gould - the Scottish entertainer, Elaine Smith - used the terms "nation" and "national" frequently and with fervour. She clearly meant Scotland, and she got a very much warmer response than did the gentleman from London.

It seemed to me that if people are at cross-purposes about what they mean when they use such basic terms as "nation" and "national" they are likely to be at cross-purposes in other respects as well. I think the Labour Party "at national level" is aware that Scotland could get seriously out of hand, whether over the poll tax or over something else. (There were a few danger signs, even in that procession, including a placard which read: "We are ruled by a government we didn't elect. So why obey the law?") Hence the anxiety to ensure that the Festival for Scottish Democracy didn't get too Scottish or too democratic.

In these respects, Mr Gould and his friends did quite well this time round. But, as Mr Gould inadvertently revealed, there are already some ominous overtones to Labour's torrid affair with "Mrs Scotland".

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Ridley muddies the sell-off water

Legislating to transform the 10 regional water authorities into private limited companies was always going to be complicated. What has surprised the government is the strength of the arguments within the privatization camp itself.

As far as the Prime Minister and her Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, are concerned the principle of selling the water mains, reservoirs and sewage farms is uncontested. Their article of faith is that private ownership is the key to better management.

But that conviction has not prevented water politics heating up. It has four players. Offstage stands the public, indifferent except when it pays the annual bill, the tap water tastes funny or when - this has yet to come - engineers arrive on the doorstep claiming a legal right to enter and install a meter which, one way or another, is going to cost at least £90.

More active are the Friends of the Earth and a mixed environmental lobby, made up of country landowners, farmers, boatmen and anglers. All are water consumers who together could make water a touchy subject. Many are agnostic about who supplies tap

water, but passionately concerned about the volume of dissolved nitrates in drinking water, and who is manning the locks at Teddington. In other words, their concern is with the regulatory regime that applies to water (whether it is publicly or privately supplied) and what kind of influence the consumer is to have.

By temperament Nicholas Ridley is a keen privatizer. He inherited Environment Department from the Conservative Party manifesto set out a new scheme for water privatization in which the water authorities would be split. They would be sold as pure utilities, providing tap water and disposing of sewage. Oversight of the rivers and streams, the boats and the fisheries would be kept in the public sector under a new and sketchily thought-out National Rivers Authority.

Whether you think he was persuaded by the country land-

owners, who include considerable numbers of the Ridley clan, or by the Confederation of British Industry, both of whom disliked the original privatization prospectus, or was convinced of the practical difficulties of privatizing the water authorities while they retained their public responsibilities for the environment, depends on your outlook. The notion of private water companies using other private companies because they were the best at the job (for example by dumping sludge into a country stream) was ambiguous to say the least.

The new proposals have upset the managers of the water authorities. Not all had originally been as enthusiastic as, for example, Roy Watts, chairman of Thames Water, but they had mostly come to approve the government's original plans. Now their management structures are to be disturbed and their empires partly disbanded.

Today their trade union, the Water Authorities Association, meets in conclave to decide just how strongly to oppose Nicholas Ridley. They hold some cards. The sale of shares could be damaged by any negative words they may utter about profitability

being reduced because they will have to pay the National Rivers Authority to get water out of the Thames or the Tyne.

Before, with gas and telephones, it was a straight fight between Conservative ministers intent on selling off a public utility and interest groups favouring nationalization. The rhetoric was clean-cut. But now the waters are turbid. Roy Watts - still, after all, a public servant - is taking a line close to the Prime Minister's heart, emphasizing profitability and effective management. Nicholas Ridley, notionally his boss, is talking about gamekeepers and poachers and the need to protect the public interest by establishing a new quango with sharp regulatory teeth which (say the water barons) could cost £350 million a year to run.

With privatization of electricity running simultaneously and a congested legislative programme, the government could have done without the internecine fight it will have on its hands.

David Walker

Public Administration Correspondent

Digby Anderson

Never go by the label

Dr David Owen unwittingly set a demanding precedent when he argued that he and his followers ought to be able to keep the name Social Democrat because they were true to the idea of Social Democracy rather than those in the SDP who favoured merger with the Liberals. This is the first time I have heard a prominent politician argue that we ought to refer to politicians in terms which accurately reflect their beliefs rather than the conventional names of their parties. It has fascinating implications, for all the party confusions.

First for Dr Owen and David Steel. David Owen's distinct political character, apart from his strong support of nuclear defence, has been his advocacy of the market. It is true that this is prefaced by the meaningless term "social" and accompanied by the obligatory compassion-speak but advocacy of the market, of dispersed non-government initiative, remains. The best description of this is not Social Democrat but Liberal. He might well adopt the word, since Mr Steel has no need of it. The Steel party can now in no way be fairly represented as the faithful followers of classical Liberalism and free enterprise. If anything, as Paddy Ashdown recently said in a communist journal, they have much in common with soft, and not so soft, socialists such as David Blunkett, etc.

Blunkett belongs to Mr Kinnock's party, which contains several members who, by their self-proclaimed beliefs or their political association on common platforms, are more truly called communists. In particular, they believe in the centrality of the class struggle, the politicization of the police and judiciary and the use of industrial action, even violence, to achieve "socialism". Their public pronouncements differ little from those of members of the Communist Party of Great Britain or its official programme: sometimes they exceed them. The Labour Party also contains many Trotskyists - Trotsky was, of course, a communist, and they should be referred to as such: Militant, strongly represented in Labour's local organization, calls itself communist. It would be silly to call the party a Communist Party but there are grounds for suggesting that it is in part already what the communist theoretician Eric Hobsbawm has said it ought to promote, a front of socialists and communists.

It would be going too far to deny that Mrs Thatcher is a Conservative but the domestic policies for which she is most famed have rightly been called Liberal or even Whig rather than Conservative. Moreover, as I have argued before in this column, there are members of her cabinet, indeed possible successors, who are none of these. The National Association of Head Teachers recently struggled to find the correct term to describe Mr Kenneth Baker's plans for a national schools curriculum and tests for all children at 11, 14 and 16. It spluttered on about "a centralized strait-jacket" and giv-

ing the Secretary of State "Draconian powers" and undermining the "teaching profession". The word it wanted was "socialist". And while we're on the subject of accurate descriptions, although it is no doubt intended to add authority, and although some teachers merit the adjective "professional", teaching is not a "profession" using that word in the usual sense of practitioners with a common, highly developed esoteric knowledge, lengthy training, a code of ethics and control over their own recruitment, selection and discipline.

It's not just party names either. One of Mr Baker's predecessors, Shirley Williams, is clearly unaware of the dictum that terms such as "radical" or "progressive" are relative to the status quo and ante. It is precisely her persistent belief in her own progressivism and earnestly progressive manner while declaiming views which are now deeply reactionary which produces that, to some, charming, quaintness.

Her partner to be, Mr Steel, the socialist, has predictably considered an alliance with the communist and socialist front to get rid of Mrs Thatcher's Liberal policies. He could not possibly contemplate an alliance with the socialists in the Conservative Party while that party is under the influence of something called the "right". This "right" is the complete opposite of the fascist right in that it wants a minimal state while the fascists want an all-powerful state. It would be helpful then to call this right the left, but since the fascist right has so much in common, in terms of authoritarianism and centralism, with the communists, perhaps it has a prior and exclusive claim.

It might be amusing, if unfair, to combine Mr Tebbit's worries about media bias with Dr Owen's about the accurate description of politicians and oblige BBC and ITV interviewers to introduce politicians accurately rather than conventionally during the current party conference season. Why, after all, should they present politicians as they wish to be presented? But there's no need. Not only are the increasingly evident facts of factions already forcing journalists to do this but so is the tendency of parties at home and in Australia, New Zealand and Spain to borrow other parties' policies.

It is important, in any resulting confusion, that crucial distinctions such as between democrats and communists and fascists are not obscured but in general the manifest complexity of it all is good for it gives enormous headaches to those journalists and politicians who insist on categorizing every idea and person on a simple left-right party continuum. And that, incidentally, may be the most important difference between Owen and Steel and Williams. The latter complacently see themselves as the moderates on this continuum. Owen knows it no longer exists.

The author is Director of The Social Affairs Unit.

however... Joseph Connolly

Parading my gaucherie

At school there was a weekly ritual called "Corps" - an adolescent version of *Dad's Army* whereby we would all dress up as soldiers for the afternoon in order to get shouted at. I well remember my introduction to this ghastly state of affairs: we were all expected to put the Coldstreams to shame and drill like clockwork before some visiting colonel.

First there was the question of kit. Most of the stuff would have looked quaintly old-fashioned on D-Day, but more to the point it appeared that even the smallest real soldier was still twice as big as me, and I was lumbered with far more khaki than I could decently manage. The last item to be issued was the beret; one queued outside a Nissen hut in alphabetical order, and the head of house, Martindale - who was pretending to be a sergeant-major that day - barked "Come in! Name!"

"Connolly, Martindale."

"Private Connolly!"

"I'm frightfully sorry - I thought you said come in!"

"Private is your rank. Private Connolly. Say it!"

"Private Connolly."

"Private Connolly, sah!"

"Private Connolly, sah! No, sorry - Sah Private Conn - I'm awfully sorry, Martindale, could we start this again?"

"Not Martindale!" he shrieked, quite beside himself.

"Sah! Sah! Sah!" I yelled back at him, hardly knowing whether I was coming or going.

He ranted a beret on my head which slumped over half my face like a predatory black omelette. The cap badge, I was told, should perch directly above the left eye, but mine stubbornly lolloped just over my right lip, so Martindale was not well pleased.

"You are a shower!" he bel-

lowed. "What are you?"

"Shower, Martindale."

"Private Connolly is a miserable shower, sah! Say it!"

"Private Martindale is a sah! ... Oh look, Martindale. I'm hopeless at all this ..."

"You're on a charge! Double charge! Get out!"

Among the kit there were all sorts of bits of canvas and brass,

and now someone was bellowing at us what to do with them: "Blanco the webbing Brasso the metal dubbin the boots! Clear?"

I went off mumbling "Brasso the webbin, blanco the dubs - no, hang on ..."

"Private Connolly!" shrieked the automation, who ordinarily was really rather a likeable lad, "you're on a charge! Get out!"

Well I slapped all this awful stuff over most things handy (the result, looking like a Jackson Pollock from his lovat period) and then I started dressing. Those army shirts rendered sackcloth and ashes akin to Jermyn Street silk; the second it hit the shoulders I found myself twitching and squirming like one in the grip of a fit. The additional hairy weight of the battledress would have had me toppling over but for the ballast of the boots (black shiny versions of the things divers used to depend upon to convey them to the ocean floor) and the 1920s' rifle which was as tall as I, and weighed significantly more. Eventually we were all standing in sort of ranks; it was terribly hot, and I was jerking under the jute like a madman in a disco when finally the Land-Rover containing the brass drove up.

"Ee-ten ... shun!"

It was silly of me to have about-turned, I know, but once it was done it was done. From behind me I heard a voice saying:

"My name is Colonel Sargent sah!"

"Sergeant Private Colony Curly sah!" I screamed, and then suddenly the twitching itch of the shirt got to me and I executed a quickumba on the spot before dropping my rifle on the colonel's foot.

"Shoulder arms!" he hissed, through clenched teeth, "and fall out!"

Well I knew I hadn't a hope of even lifting the thing, let alone getting it up to my shoulder, but I knelt down to show willing, the weight of the boots slowly pulling me over and over until the rifle and myself were lying parallel on the ground.

"I don't think I can fall out, I'm afraid," I apologized. "Will falling over do? Sah?"



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

SILENCE IN CUSTODY

Yesterday, Mr Peter Imbert, the recently appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, ended a substantial discourse on the tasks facing the police in major cities with a short, but earnest, appeal for the modification of what is popularly known as "the right of silence". The Home Secretary will welcome this initiative: last July, he suggested that the time was ripe for putting this contentious issue back on the agenda.

It has been absent ever since the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure reported in 1981 (though only by a majority vote) in favour of the status quo. In 1972, on the other hand, the Criminal Law Revision Committee had proposed that the existing rules designed to protect suspects in the matter of silence during police enquiries should be modified in order to redress what was felt to be an unwarrantable bias against the prosecution. What is more, since the Royal Commission's report, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act has substantially increased the general safeguards for the rights of suspect and accused people.

The case for reopening the question of silence is, therefore, now strong. The public debate on this highly technical matter, however, will go astray unless certain elementary misconceptions are removed at the start. No one is suggesting that the right to remain silent when faced with charges or suspicions should literally be abolished. When in court, an accused person is free to keep his mouth resolutely shut and the judge will warn the jury that it must not draw any inference regarding guilt from this posture.

This is a deeply entrenched principle of English law and one which, at present at any rate, no government would dare to tamper with. No one is proposing either that the right to remain silent during pre-trial enquiries by the police should be swept away. Under none of the reforms now being considered would silence in such circumstances become a criminal offence. What is being recommended is that when a suspect or a person under charge

refuses to reply to police questioning, it should be lawful for the prosecution to draw attention to this fact when the case comes to trial.

Even this modest suggestion, however, has caused panic in some legal dovecotes, though it also has strong support from some eminently sensible lawyers. A variety of arguments is raised against it. Some say that the right of silence is so seldom invoked that a change in the law would not make much difference. On the face of it, this is a point which could be used by either side to the controversy.

Others say that the right of silence, as at present construed, is of real benefit to some innocent people — those who are by nature timid, bewildered and frightened by authority. There may be something in this, but ordinary experience suggests that people of this kind are more likely to be incoherently loquacious than taciturn. Hardened criminals, who know their rights are perhaps more likely to have the courage to stay mum than are the nervous innocent.

The grand argument deployed by the opponents of change is that any modification of the present arrangements would violate the sacred principle of English criminal law that the burden of proof rests with the prosecution and not with the defence. This undoubtedly would be so if, unbelievably, refusal to answer police questions were to come to be regarded as, in itself, proof of guilt. Whatever changes are made in the rules, however, it is inconceivable that silence during preliminary investigations should be regarded as anything but one item of evidence to be corroborated by other items and to be itself carefully scrutinized by the court.

Certainly, it is hard to see how the kind of change now being discussed could be any sort of incentive to police brutality, mental or physical. Not only would the strong safeguards against this introduced by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act remain, but a policeman who knew he could use in open court the information that the accused chose to remain silent after arrest would be less tempted to extort a confession.

BURYING THE WASTE

The Irish government's instant hostility to the suggestion of excavating a nuclear waste store 800 metres under the sea off Sellafield is understandable but unhelpful. The Irish want Britain's nuclear fuel reprocessing plant closed; anything that underwrites Sellafield's future is, therefore, to be condemned.

Since the Irish government has as much chance of shutting down Britain's nuclear power programme as the British would have of halting the march of French reactors along the Normandy coast, the proper interest of the Irish is the same as that of the British. It is to ensure that nuclear waste disposal is carried out to the highest technical and safety standards rather than at lowest cost in some far-flung corner of the kingdom. On such a test, the new thinking at the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (Nirex) and its biggest shareholder, British Nuclear Fuels, is welcome — at least in principle.

At present, intermediate-level waste, such as fuel casing, is piling up in a temporary store at Sellafield, which itself produces four fifths of the industry total. It already occupies the volume of a pair of semi-detached houses. There is also an urgent need for new facilities for low-level waste disposal sites. Most low-level waste currently goes to the Drigg surface site near Sellafield, which produces about 60 per cent of a much larger total.

Cheap new surface stores for low-level waste are no longer acceptable to the public. Earlier this year, Nirex concluded that if it were to build such stores to the required quality, there would be no great saving over deep-level storage. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, eagerly seized the pre-election opportunity to cancel unpopular investigation work at four sites and enunciate a new policy of deep-level storage.

After a poor record in the past, the nuclear industry is at last beginning to respond to public concerns. Drigg is being upgraded from a mere dumping site. BNFL will drastically cut radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea through its enhanced actinide removal plant, which now has planning permission. The proposal to make geological investigations for a possible deep-level undersea storage cavern, with permanent access, comes into the same category. This is not a return to dumping at sea.

There are still, however, questions concerning the Sellafield cavern. The new policy enunciated by Mr Ridley was to build one or more large deep-level stores to combine storage of low and intermediate-level waste. Nirex is looking at three possible sites. But the Sellafield option does not appear to fit in with this policy.

The excavated cavern is at present intended to take only intermediate waste from the reprocessing plant. If that is what Nirex and BNFL have in mind, the rising piles of low-level waste towards the end of the century would have to go to Drigg. The capacity of Drigg is being expanded, mainly by compressing half the waste before storage. But this hardly seems enough.

There is also the question of waste from decommissioning the first generation Magnox nuclear stations. There is lively argument over whether this should be left on site for decades or not. It would be wrong to close options now.

If the geology proves right, it makes sense to build a high quality undersea storage cavern off Sellafield. Wherever it is built, however, there must be no abandonment of the policy to build a flexible, combined deep-level storage site with plenty of capacity for the future.

NOT TESTED HERE

At the end of last month the Soviet Union passed a law which, it now transpires, obliges foreigners arriving in the country for a stay of three months or more to take an Aids test. The requirement cannot be considered discriminatory in that Soviet passport holders returning from longer stays abroad are also required to take the test. It does, however, raise questions of principle which need to be addressed.

At present, responsibility for overseeing the tests is taken by the ministry responsible for the visitors: the ministry of higher education for students, the ministry of foreign trade for businessmen and the foreign ministry for diplomats and journalists. So far, education officials have been the most zealous in discharging their duty, and more than 100 British students have been instructed to take a test as a condition of their stay.

Seventeen British undergraduates in the Russian city of Voronezh have already taken the test. Doubtless they had little choice. A Soviet-issued medical certificate is a common condition for the allocation of hostel accommodation in the provinces. Students are not accompanied to their destination by British officials and, in the absence of direct trunk dialling, have no means of contacting the embassy in Moscow urgently.

Now the Soviet side can argue that the principle of tests for foreign students has been accepted. The British authorities have, laudably, decided to fly out disposable syringes, so that the risk of a student contracting Aids through an infected needle is minimized. This through an infected needle is minimized. This risk is ever present in countries where syringes are in short supply. It does seem, however, that Britain may have been just a little too quick to accept the principle of compulsory testing for their nationals in the Soviet Union.

Moscow's desire to curb the spread of Aids in the Soviet Union is understandable. So —

given their official statistics which say more than 80 of 100 Soviet Aids patients are foreigners — is their insistence on testing visitors. It is the Soviet Union's generally inferior medical standards (now officially admitted) and the discrepancy between our political systems that raise doubts.

Are their analytical techniques reliable? What guarantee is there that a Soviet Aids test might not on occasion be manipulated to keep out of the country someone the Soviet authorities would prefer to keep out for other reasons? Such questions must be cleared up before any British citizen — student, businessman, journalist or diplomat — is required to take a Soviet Aids test.

At present, Moscow insists that it will recognize only tests conducted in the Soviet Union by Soviet doctors. But there is surely an argument for reciprocity. The Soviet Union has its own problem of drug abuse, its own homosexual community and its own Aids victims. If Britain required Soviet visitors to take a British Aids test, it should be possible to bargain at very least for mutual recognition of test certificates. This would be an interim solution to what could rapidly become a serious issue between the Soviet Union and other countries.

It would only be an interim solution, however, for many other countries are in the process of introducing requirements similar to those being enforced by Moscow. The only long-term solution is for internationally recognized standards of testing to be adopted under the auspices of the World Health Organization, like vaccination against smallpox in the past. Frequent travellers could then take a test in their own country before setting out and so be saved from the hypothetical risks — medical, procedural and political — of being tested in a foreign country.

Vital issue of building VAT

From Lord Bruce of Donington
Sir, The House Builders Federation have, as reported in your today's issue (September 14), every reason to draw attention to the disastrous consequences for the construction industry of a ruling by the European Court that Britain impose a 15 per cent VAT on new building construction.

This anxiety is well justified, first because it is not at all clear, despite Government protestation to the contrary, that the action before the court (no. 416/85) is being contested with that degree of vigour consistent with a generous Treasury willingness to forgo the receipt of an amount substantially in excess of £1,000 million per annum which would eventuate if the EEC's action against the British Government succeeded.

In October, 1986, the Government told me that infraction proceedings were a legal issue and that the pleadings were strictly confidential to the parties in dispute (H of L report, October 6-16, 1986). Correspondence with the Registrar of the European Court finally elicited the information that the British Government can publish pleadings. It is our policy only to give particulars to the parties. But the parties are at complete liberty to make pleadings public. There is no sub-judice rule.

The Government thereupon beat a retreat, but pleaded that there is a convention, recognised equally by the Commission of Member States, that the confidentiality of the other parties' pleadings is to be respected as being in the best interests of the conduct of cases (H of L report, July 1, 1987, col 248).

There is, of course, no valid reason why the British people should not be informed of the detailed pleadings submitted on their behalf and a refusal to do this must cast some doubt as to the resoluteness with which Britain's case is being pursued.

Secondly, in the event of the European Court's judgment going against the United Kingdom, how can this be vetoed, even by the Prime Minister? If decisions by the European Court are automatically enforceable in the member states concerned, then what becomes of the sole sovereign right of the British House of Commons to levy taxation? If they are not, will the Prime Minister assure the country that, notwithstanding any ruling of the European Court, she will not introduce legislation to put its judgment into effect or, if she does, that she will afford all MPs a free vote on the Finance Bill and will refrain from applying the Whip to ensure that the European Court's judgment is given effect to?

These questions require an unequivocal answer.

Yours,
DONALD BRUCE,
House of Lords,
September 14.

Crystal clear

From Mr Robert Middleton
Sir, The letters from Mrs Rumbaut (August 26) and Mr Lingood (September 9) remind me that I was once asked by a Swiss to explain the difference between "to slow up" and "to slow down".

I didn't even try.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MIDDLETON,
1299 Crans, Switzerland.

Aid to Mozambique

From the Director of the Southern Africa Association
Sir, Your leading article, "No to Mozambique" (September 11), seems to be informed by prejudice rather than by a careful assessment of Western interests which we ought to expect from you. Western interests, both economic and political, in the front-line states are being seriously damaged by the guerrilla war in Mozambique.

British investment and British commercial interests in these countries, which are the concern of this association, are suffering from the disruption of the country by Renamo. Whatever is the motivation of the various elements which go under the name of Renamo, and this is difficult to identify, it is certainly not "pro-Western".

Nor is it accurate to imply that Mozambique is now a Soviet satellite. Even if it were, it would surely be in our interest to tempt the country away from Soviet

Water music

From Mr Andrew Parker

Sir, Your recent correspondents have written of water-powered church organs which were at the end of their working lives. Here, at King's College, a series of such engines provided the wind for the chapel organ from 1860 to 1932.

The occasion of the considerable enlargement of the instrument in 1859-60, with the replacement of the old hand-bellows for the wind supply, inspired Richard Oakes, Provost from 1850-1888, to write this hitherto unpublished epigram:

Once more our organ feels the Builder's hand —
Mixed with the old a thousand new pipes stand,
To suit the end the maker had in view.
The art mechanic gives him something new —
If new this is, of modern might designed,
By water engine press'd, to raise the wind.
By wind old Aeolus the waves did raise —

Growing evil of football violence

From Mr Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham, Small Heath (Labour)

Sir, The absurdities in which the Government is now enveloped in dealing with the criminality afflicting football is well illustrated in today's Times (September 11), which contained a first leader calling for a continued ban on football supporters in Europe; an interview by David Miller with the Minister for Sport, who was threatening even more action for which he has no lawful powers; and another, by Ian Stafford, explaining that every police force in the country is concerned with the chaos created by the Government's insistence upon universal membership schemes.

The Government is following a policy of bluster. It is not tackling the problems of violence in society; it is trying to hold it at bay at football matches. It cannot bring forth legislation to restrict admission to football matches to registered members only, since that would involve a justification for the outrageous proposition that the rights of British citizens to attend a lawful sporting occasion are to be removed.

Every senior police officer quoted in *The Times* demonstrated that such rights are no academic consideration. British people exercise them by turning up at football matches and overwhelmingly they behave th-

emselves. Like everyone else, they want the criminal element apprehended and prosecuted. And if they turn up in such numbers that artificial membership schemes cause chaos at the turnstiles then ministers must accept responsibility for that situation.

In Dusseldorf last week we witnessed another example of these contradictions as the minister, who had spent the previous week advising all British supporters to stay away, then told us that they had passed their first test by their presence!

Until it is understood that football violence is part of the growing evil of violence in our society and that this has to be tackled in our cities, in our communities and in our sport, we shall make little progress. We might make a start by making it an offence to desecrate the national flag, which is used as a symbol of overt racism by some of these groups.

All these problems require a united political approach in which the Opposition has repeatedly offered to join. It is time to address ourselves to fundamental causes with the same determination that the Government has shown in other fields of activity. Yours faithfully,
DENIS HOWELL,
From: Flat 1, Manor Court,
St Mawes, Cornwall,
September 11.

Enjoying rivers

From Mr Edward Davies

Sir, In his letter (September 3) Michael Hughes asked the very pertinent question whether a way could be devised of sharing the joys of the rivers of England among responsible users.

For the past several years I have been privileged to chair the Canoe Access and Development Committee, composed of representatives of the National Anglers' Council and British Canoe Union, with representatives of the country landowners and Sports Council usually attending.

I am bound to admit that, apart from maintaining an intermittent dialogue, our sole achievement has been to agree to guidelines to assist those concerned in reaching local access agreements. The guidelines, while clearly deferring to the common-law rights of

riparian owners of streams and rivers where no rights of navigation exist, enjoin local representatives of canoeists and anglers to reach agreements which are reasonable and impose some degree of constraint on all parties. Regrettably, they are not always found acceptable.

On many rivers, in certain seasons and water levels, there is a direct conflict of interest between the canoeist and the angler. Even so, there are many local agreements between anglers and canoeists which have worked satisfactorily over many years. We shall continue to press for such agreements in those areas of the country where relationships are highly unsatisfactory.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD DAVIES,
Friedly House,
21-24 Chiswell Street, EC1,
September 8.

Access to books

From Mr John Gillard Watson

Sir, A librarian does not wait for a *British National Bibliography* entry before shelving a new book, as Mr Fleming believes (September 11). New books are already catalogued by the British Library, or the Library of Congress, or both; the entry will be found on the back of the title-page and only needs copying out.

Before I retired last year as Librarian of the Oxford University Institute of Economics and Statistics, I reckoned it took about three minutes to catalogue a new British or American book, on occasion I picked up a copy in Blackwells on my way to work and had it on the shelf before coffee-time! My colleagues in the public libraries may well be frustrated in their desire to give a prompt service by local government bureaucracy. Yours etc,
JOHN GILLARD WATSON,
32 Beech Croft Road, Oxford,
September 12.

influence. Mozambique is in fact pursuing a pragmatic policy, both politically and economically, and admitting past mistakes.

This year the government has bravely followed the advice of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and introduced tough measures, including liberalising economic control: hardly Marxist. The result has been a hard-headed decision by Western aid donors at a recent consultative group meeting in Paris to provide the economic aid which they calculated Mozambique needed and could use effectively.

It will be a long haul, but current Western policies, including that of the United States, towards Mozambique offer the best contribution we can make to restoring stability (and profitability for our commercial interests) to the troubled southern African region.

Yours faithfully,
W. TURNER, Director,
Southern Africa Association,
Savoy Hill House,
7/10 Savoy Hill, WC2,
September 11.

No water raised the wind in ancient days.
But wind and water now their powers combine.
By music's art to praise the King Divine.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PARKER,
King's College, Cambridge,
September 11.

From Mr John E. Burns
Sir, In response to Dr Eric Chamberlain's letter (September 4) regarding the bellows of church organs being operated by water engines, there are still the remains of one of these engines below the organ in the chapel of Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire.

We advised Lord Leigh to retain them for their historic interest, when we fitted a modern blower some four years ago. Yours sincerely,
JOHN E. BURNS,
Managing Director,
F. W. Burns & Son Ltd.,
Organ Builders,
112 Lutterworth Road,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire,
September 5.

Motorway disaster

From Mr Ian Woolf

Sir, I sympathise with the lamentations of PCs Chapman and Minskip ("When will they learn?", September 11). The behaviour of motorists, especially on motorways, is generally unbelievably stupid; but is this to be wondered at?

Although it is accepted that the police are necessary to protect society, motorway society seems to be an exception.

This is my experience at least on the M23, which I have travelled two or three times a month regularly during the last year, never once seeing a policeman. As a result drivers feel free to break almost every rule of the highway code.

Yours etc,
IAN WOOLF,
c/o Special Forces Club,
8 Herbert Crescent, SW1,
September 12.

Second-hand letters

From Councillor Peter Watts

Sir, Recent correspondence regarding unsigned letters has rightly emphasised the discourtesy involved, but I wonder if there is a more sinister motive in some cases.

Recently I was shown a letter from a firm of solicitors representing a large property company which, from its threat of eviction, brought to mind the era of Rachmanism. Certainly it gave the elderly recipient — distressed by bereavement — a sleepless night before she could obtain assurance from her own solicitor as to the hollowness of the threat.

Although the printed heading listed directors, the letter was not signed, nor was the writer identified. An unsigned letter may have no validity in law and can be repudiated if challenged, but if it contains a threat that gains compliance through fear or ignorance, then the writer's objective is achieved at little cost and under a cloak of respectability.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WATTS,
55 Berkeley Court,
Oaklands Drive,
Weybridge, Surrey,
September 7.

Terminology

From Mr J. T. Fetherston-Dilke
Sir, Having paid my last school bill, at last I can enjoy reading your Schools announcements.

But which term is about to start? In your columns this week, the majority have plumped for either Autumn or Michaelmas, but at least four have gone for Christmas, one for Advent, two for Winter. Six are undecided, which refer to "The Term", one goes for "Full", Charterhouse goes for Ovation Quarter and Westminster, bless it, begins Play Term.

Is there not a case for the Headmasters' Conference to pursue some uniformity? The term dates are almost identical. Yours faithfully,
TIM FETHERSTON-DILKE,
85 Christchurch Road,
Winchester, Hampshire,
September 10.

'Jumping up' at Carnival time

From Lord Broxbourne, QC

Sir, I would like to support, though with infinitely less authority, the references in your issue of today (September 9) by the Reverend Clifford Hendeby to Carnival in Port of Spain.

I attended that Carnival in the early 1960s in rather unusual circumstances. I had gone to Port of Spain with a brief to lead a multi-ethnic team of counsel in a case to be heard by the then Chief Justice of Trinidad. On arrival I expressed a wish for a consultation on the case next day, and to my surprise met with a polite but firm refusal.

I ventured to ask the reason and was told: "Neither you nor anybody else will have a consultation in Port of Spain tomorrow. It is Carnival. Everybody will be there, and you had better come, too."

I duly did and, though no terpsichorean, was initiated into the art of "jumping-up". It was a most enjoyable occasion and, in Herbert Morrison's favourite phrase, a good time was had by all. Certainly, I had no thought or apprehension of violence.

I therefore second Mr Hendeby's suggestion that the organisers of the Notting Hill Carnival should study the organisation and conduct of the annual event of the Savannah and seek to reflect its joyous, peaceful and friendly spirit.

Your obedient servant,
BROXBORNE,
House of Lords,
September 9.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 16 1901

William McKinley (1843-1901), 25th President of the USA, was shot by an anarchist on September 6, 1901 and died eight days later, the Vice-President, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) assuming the presidency. The gratuitous comparison with Evelyn Baring, 1st Earl of Cromer, probably stems from *The Times's* close association with him when he was consul-general in Egypt.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

(From Our Special Correspondent)

MONTREAL, Sept. 15.

Even when there was an absolute belief that President McKinley would recover, most frequently talked about and discussed was Mr Roosevelt. A question regarding him addressed to any man or woman of any class produced volumes of reminiscences and differing opinions about "Teddy", a sobriquet so universal that it requires self-restraint to avoid using it oneself. A friend of mine driving in Buffalo passed another carriage. "There's Teddy," said the coachman. "Drive after the Vice-President," said my friend. "Is it Teddy yet want?" said the coachman, and he drove furiously. Mr. Roosevelt entered the carriage, and on leaving it said an equally cordial good-bye to my friend and to the coachman, who remarked, "Teddy's a grand fellow. That is the verdict of the crowd. The ladies call him 'quite a lovely man'; but here the adjective must be translated into the English language. Young America is enthusiastic over him, and imitates him as best it can in manner, style, and dress. Old America and West are proud of him, but with perhaps a certain parental anxiety. 'We prefer McKinley, whom we know, to Teddy, whom we don't quite know,' said one. Another said, — 'We forgive Teddy a great deal for his absolute honesty.' And I cannot forbear quoting a third, who, after much cogitation, said, — 'I'm thinking that when Teddy's done with America it will, may be, require another Christopher Columbus to find what's left of it.'"

This much might have been written before seeing Mr Roosevelt...

As my eyes fell on him I received a first impression, which deepened with every moment that I watched him. I was speaking, not with Lord Cromer, but with Evelyn Baring of 1882. Bear in mind that both are of Dutch origin, the one of British and aristocratic or Whiggish growth, the other, though equally well-born, of American and democratic growth: the one of official development, the other of free national development; and, making allowance for these differences (no one ever called Lord Cromer "Teddy"), you see the same type. Resemblance in feature, though by no means striking, is not absent. There is the same jaw suggestive of a bulldog; the same quick, impatient, yet tolerant, look in the eyes, which before you speak seems to say, "I know what you are going to say, and will tell you where you are wrong;" the same way of brushing aside irrelevant or insignificant detail and going right down to the root of the difficulty... and, perhaps, the same tendency to assume that "I and Providence" are convertible terms. I do not think that any one who recommended clemency to Anarchists would long continue to speak of him as "Teddy"...

THE ARTS

Heroic folk

Two balding, greying but un-nervingly energetic men, one a distinguished novelist, the other a legendary rock musician, were strange bedfellows last night while showing off their talents as moonlighters. In *Australia* (BBC2) the diminutive novelist was completely lost to us in a celebrated iron can of a helmet. No doubt Ned Kelly wished he could have been covered by more of his armour after he had been shot in the leg. The novelist, had he donned the

TELEVISION

lot, would have scarcely shown a toe. His identity, however, had been firmly established from the start.

"Good-day, I'm Tom Kenally", beamed the engaging, sprightly kooka bear of a man as he began *Beginnings*, the first of his five documentaries which mark Australia's bi-centennial. Kenally, who did not use a fixed script, proved a fluent, humorous television performer. If the programme had an Achilles' heel, or rather a Kelly leg, it was because Australia itself had a far less cheery beginning.

It would be foolish to accuse a novelist of Kenally's scope and imagination of ignoring the significance of human suffering, and his most recent novel, *The Playmaker*, concerns convict origins. But he thought it best to spare viewers by not dwelling long, as Robert Hughes did in his recent book, *The Fatal Shore*, on the barbaric details of the monstrous inhumanity of man to man which blooded the birth of the nation. They were noted but we were soon on to happier aspects of early Australia — diggers striking gold, nascent democracy, trade unionism and a folk-hero man of iron, even if he finished up on the end of a rope.

Viewers of *Fish 'n' Sheep 'n' Rock 'n' Roll* (Channel 4) soon saw that Ian Anderson, the flautist of Jethro Tull, was a man of many hats — most of them mutants of country-gent head-toppers. Only those who have closely followed his career, though, since he sported a head of his too wild to be tamed by any hat, would have realized that he has become a country gent, with a successful Scottish salmon-rearing estate and an English farm.

Andrew Hislop

Reign of terror through a veil of cherry-blossom... the Japanese vision of *Macbeth* comes to the Lyttelton Theatre tomorrow night, with *Medea* to follow in the Olivier next week: Marie Myerscough introduces the sensational company from Tokyo led by Yukio Ninagawa, an innovative director who manages to be both a commercial and artistic success



Blood-red magnificence

An imposing Buddhist altar, repository of dead souls, frames the set. Swashbuckling samurai warriors animate the Japanese *Macbeth*'s reign of terror — often through a veil of cherry-blossoms, auguries of death in Japan. Booming temple-bells, Buddhist chants and the music of Brahms and Fauré dominate a powerful soundtrack. Redolent of kabuki and samurai drama, *Macbeth* from Tokyo's Ninagawa company is set in a 16th-century feudal Japan, torn by civil war.

The 60-strong company opens at the Lyttelton tomorrow, led by Masane Tsukayama as *Macbeth* and Komaki Kurihara as Lady *Macbeth*. An all-male *Medea* follows at the Olivier next week with the kabuki actor Tokusaburo Arashi in the title-role. The artistic and technical team responsible for the stunning visuals and sound are among Japan's best. Yukio Ninagawa is Japan's most innovative director.

Ninagawa was involved in the thriving student "fringe" scene in Tokyo in the Sixties, and his initiation into directing was by heading his own avant-garde troupe. His hallmarks today — dynamic staging, huge casts (often appearing and evaporating in seconds), blends of theatre styles and cinematic effects — are all typical

of the theatre of that earlier period. Bringing with him a radical approach and a knowledge of the tastes of young audiences, Ninagawa was invited in 1974 to join the Toho company to direct Japan's very first commercial production of a Shakespeare play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Elton John's music and a sexy Juliet shocked the die-hard Shakespearean scholars. But it made an impact on an equally innovative Toho producer, Tadao Nakane. He now works exclusively with Ninagawa, and recalls how they both wanted to "perform Shakespeare for our generation and with our eyes".

Ninagawa's next major work was an equally revolutionary version of *Oedipus Rex* — with a cast of 160, all on stage throughout.

Magnificent costumes, sumptuous sets, ingenious sound and lighting design, and vivid colour — especially red — used in a magical Japanese way endow Ninagawa's plays with unforgettable moments. With blood, costumes and stage lighting, Ninagawa's red has never been more dramatically used than in his *Love Suicides of Chikamatsu*. A climax of red extravagance marks the suicide of one couple, vividly set against a swirling snowstorm. For the last passionate embrace the courtesan is costumed in an erotic red under-

kimono. Poor Umegawa then meets her death by strangulation with a long, inevitably red silk scarf, dramatically criss-crossed round her neck, kabuki-style.

The *Shitaya Mannencho Story* illustrates another of Ninagawa's classic trade marks, the set that magically springs to life after a black-out. Based on a true incident in a seedy Tokyo district just after the war, the opening scene — a Hogarthian mob of rogues, vagabonds and unfortunates promenading a set of three-storey wooden tenements fronting a park with a real pond — constitutes almost an entire underworld society on stage.

With productions of such a consistently high standard, Ninagawa holds an unique position in the contemporary Japanese theatre. He is the only Sixties "underground" director to have moved to the commercial field. In originality and range he has no equals. Rare in his popularity with both audiences and critics alike, he is a commercial and artistic success.

Though his reputation rests solely on his theatre work, he is talked of as a "star" and his name is enough to fill seats. His popularity has widened the audience for classical western theatre. His stagings confer an authenticity not usually seen in Japan — where the

norm is stereotyped imitations of Westerners, wigs, ill-fitting costumes and all. But what have particularly endeared Ninagawa to his home audiences, and prevented him from being cold-shouldered on account of his overseas successes, are his Japanese plays. They account for more than two-thirds of his work.

Ninagawa also knows how to cater for his audience's taste. A good story straightforwardly told, spectacular stagings and stirred emotions are *de rigueur* for the Japanese, who demand from their theatre entertainment and an escape from the high pressure of their daily lives.

Ninagawa next year tackles his first American play, Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Set in the Tokyo of the Twenties, this staging is likely to break new ground in Japan's contemporary theatre.

Meanwhile, a stunning *Medea* awaits audiences at the National Theatre. The kabuki-like costumes (Medea's made from antique kimonos donated from all over Japan) and the Noh-inspired shamisen-strumming chorus are just two of the elements demonstrating the closeness of the classical theatres of Greece and Japan — great cultures linked by the historical Silk Road. It is typical of this extraordinary Japanese man to recognize and build on this connection.

Fiction of the bent copper

THEATRE

Pork Pies Stratford East

It is 18 months since a police officer made allegations that he was being bribed by a local businessman to boost the statistics. When challenged over such practices, the culprit claims that they keep up morale and reputation, and thus attract brighter recruits. "Dixon's dead" rings through the play like a motto.

Mr Foxall has fulfilled his main purpose of restoring all this in a loud, carrying voice, and without indulging in personal vilification. Most of the fiddling constabulary emerge as amiable, even likable, men. Their sheer ordinariness is the most chilling thing in Jeff Teare's production.

Structurally the play is a mess. It is set in a derelict warehouse where the distracted narrator has gone to ground, and takes the form of flashbacks. The story is fractured into tiny self-contained scenes, some very well written, others invoking the narrator's wife and colleagues to tell him at wearisome length that his crusade is futile.

Timothy Block plays the protagonist in a mood of spiritless obstinacy, which slows the show down to snail's pace when he has the stage to himself. Alan Cowan and Glyn Grimstead make their mark in the supporting company.

Irving Wardle

Skill in short

Synge triple bill Gate

This enterprising and welcome offering by the Four Corners Theatre Company (directed by Nigel Draycott) of three of J.M. Synge's short plays begins with a rarity.

When the Moon Has Set, his first play, was turned down by Yeats and Lady Gregory and never performed in Synge's lifetime. The setting is a country house whose master has just died. Young Sister Eileen, who has nursed him, and the dead man's nephew, have fallen in love, but it takes the intervention of Mary Costello, a deranged descendant of Castilian nobility given to walking over the moors, who turns out to have been engaged to the master but not to have rejected him on religious grounds, to convince Eileen (Franchine Mulrooney) to go for carnal rather than spiritual love.

The nephew says things like "You are infinitely beautiful" and is generally reminiscent of Stephen Dedalus at his floweriest (Tony O'Callaghan, tries quite successfully to keep him earthbound), and the play ends with one of the limpest embraces I have ever seen, but up to that point the tension is expertly sustained. Many worse plays than this, including a number by Yeats and Lady Gregory, must have been put on at the Abbey.

Harry Eyres

Colours in the water

GALLERIES

Masters of the Sea National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

When you consider that the British are famed for being an island race with love of the sea in their blood, and also for being nationally obsessed with watercolour as an artistic medium, it is curious that the two characteristics so seldom seem to come meaningfully together. There is not one of our great watercolourists whom we would associate specifically with the sea; even Turner, many wonderful sea-scapes as he produced, was so prolific and universal that we cannot regard him as a specialist.

It is, therefore, a more interesting and original project than at first blush it seems for the National Maritime Museum, in association with the Yale Center for British Art, to have assembled a comprehensive collection of British maritime watercolours from 1650 to 1930 (on show in Greenwich until October 25).

There are a few Turners, of which Yale's *Folkestone Harbour and Coast to Dover* is the grandest and most famous invention, and *Sunset at Sea*, with *Gurnets* (which look



Collingwood Smith's very grand *HMS Dreadnought* (detail)

remarkably monstrous in the foreground) represents very well his more visionary mode. There are even some Cotmans, though by far the most striking and characteristic, *Boat on a Beach*, is in a way stretching a point, since the spectator is looking away from the sea, and the intensely desolate effect of the piece comes mainly from our forgetting what is represented and seeing it rather as some sort of bier with its pall/tarpaulin half drawn back to reveal the emptiness beneath.

Otherwise the earlier years are less interesting, tending to

breed mainly technical depictions, the seaborne equivalent of topographical drawing. Among the Clarkson Stanfields there is one particularly fine, *Cutting Away the Mast*, which reminds us forcibly of his theatrical connections. There is also a very grand Collingwood Smith of *HMS Dreadnought off Greenwich*. Later, things pick up quite a bit with the appearance of some real specialists, who have suffered no doubt a little in critical esteem because of their specialization.

There is, for example, a wonderfully atmospheric Alfred William Hunt, *"Blue Lights"*, *Tynemouth Pier — Lighting the Lamps at Sundown*, and some splendid Henry Moore's exemplify his great skill in rendering waves and foam by a convention all his own. And in between, standing somewhat apart, is Rowlandson. The catalogue has a page devoted to "Rowlandson and the Sea" which points out that he was more interested than we imagine in happenings on ship-board. The trouble is that he seems, expectedly, to have seen them as more comical than romantic or heroic.

John

Russell Taylor

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CONCERT

SNO/Bamert SNO Centre, Glasgow

The bright nights of Musica Nova, the vaguely triennial Scottish contemporary music festival, are back again this week, bringing with them the *Halle Nacht* of a massive and electric new orchestral piece by James Dillon. The title, suggestive of a darkness so intense it blinds, comes from Holderlin's *Antigone* translation; further translated into music, it becomes the cue for a work in which the images of blackness and brilliance are very directly expressed.

So there are dense, deep chords in the bass, low flutter-tonguings from the brass, heavy drumming and, on the other hand, tight stretches of violin harmonics and glittering charges from crotals and glockenspiel. However, Dillon's use of these things is far from obvious. The dark folds into and out of the light and, although the opposition is kept up for 25 minutes, there is no easy progression but rather a constant renewal in a sequence of great waves leading with accumulating force to a closing climax of hair-raising fierceness.

This is what Xenakis ought to sound like. Dillon's sound-scape is comparably bold and challenging; his ear for detail, however, is more acute (a curious dominant seventh apart) so that the piece contrives to be moonlit and yet also perpetually surprising, generating new possibilities from within itself, going ever onward in the same direction.

One might regret only the preponderance of scale figures, although they certainly are effective in setting off the moments of greater melodic definition, these including wild breaks for trumpet and solo clarinet. In its colossal energy the piece uses a large orchestra with immense skill and virtuosity — extraordinary given that this is Dillon's first work for symphonic forces, and that it is conceived on such an ambitious scale.

Matthias Bamert, as always an exemplary musician, had the measure of the work's violence and intricacy, and the Scottish National Orchestra set about their task with a will. Toru Takemitsu, another of Musica Nova's featured composers, was represented in the same programme by two bits of sub-Messiaen dreaming and a pair of fugues.

Paul Griffiths

THIS PAINTING'S OWNER RECEIVED NEWS OF ITS SALE WITH INTEREST. (130,000% OR THEREABOUTS.)



"The Terrace, Cap d'Al" by Sir John Lavery (oil on canvas). Recently sold at Phillips for £130,000.

When the owner of this painting bought it from the artist himself in 1925, he paid the princely sum of £99 for it.

It has now been sold, at Phillips, London auction rooms, for a mere £130,000.

Thus doubling the previous record sale price for the artist's work, set only a few days previously at another London auction house.

Phillips hold frequent and varied picture sales. The Modern British department is currently cataloguing for major auctions this autumn and winter.

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Housewife superstar?

Superwoman is dead, say the women's magazines — and even the woman who initially defined her, Shirley Conran says so too. But is she simply hiding her muscle beneath a hand-knitted sweater and using her super-strength more surreptitiously, to rock the cradle without rocking the boat?

Magazines jam-packed with jam-making, dressmaking and home-making hints are back in vogue — and so are awards for the superwomen, with a small "s", of 1987 who, whether they sew soft toys on the kitchen table or run a £4 million timber laminate business, deftly weave the threads of a fulfilling career into a rich tapestry of family life — without getting into a tangle.

Noelle Walsh, who has recently taken over the editorship of *Good Housekeeping*, first published in 1922, is convinced that "women want more now than when this magazine started. We've got to show them there are ways to have it all — without having to be superwomen."

That is why *Good Housekeeping's* new Entertaining Woman Award has been launched. The women who will receive the three cash prizes of £5,000, £3,000 and £2,000, sponsored by the National Westminster Bank, will be those who have successfully managed the juggling act, so that their families always come out on top.

Judging from the pile of applications on Walsh's desk, the species is not as rare as might be thought, although the distinction from the whirlwind Superwoman of an earlier age is decidedly blurry.

Linda Kelsey, editor of *Cosmopolitan* ("still the leader in the young woman's ABC market", she says, with a circulation of 375,000), agrees with Walsh that today's woman expects to "have it all", and says: "Given the right support from husbands, families and government, there is no reason why she shouldn't."

Today she will announce the winner of her magazine's award — for the High Flyer '87 — and a business woman "on her way up" will be awarded an international MBA in France. The magazine also launched a Woman of Tomorrow award this year, for high achievers under the age of 30 in all fields of endeavour; its winner will be announced next month at a champagne "power breakfast". Kelsey believes that the *Cosmo* girl has evolved along with the times, although not necessarily into the *Good Housekeeping* woman.

Articles on orgasm now take a back seat to seminars on everything from assertiveness to computers.

Options magazine has been running a Women Mean Business award for five years, since its inception. This year's winner of the award, sponsored by the TSB, was Pippa Gee, a former secretary who is now financial director of Chambers International Prod-

The housewife is alive in women's magazines. So too is the businesswoman.

Is the gap between the two getting smaller? Victoria McKee investigates



with its unashamedly hausfrau-ish approach.

And Jill Churchill, editor of one of its closest competitors, *International Thompson's Family Circle*, points out that: "Over the last four years *Family Circle* has continued to gain in circulation every six-month period. Family used to be a very dowdy word, but now it's suddenly an okay word — even fashionable. And we can't do enough on babies."

Sandra Boler, editor of *Brides and Setting Up Home*, agrees. Two issues this year have sold out. "It's funny, the title sounded old-fashioned three years ago, but it doesn't any more."

Iris Burton, editor of *Prima*, and now editor-in-chief of its weekly sister *Best*, says: "There has definitely been a change of mood. I guess if you analyse it, the difference is that now women are secure enough to admit that we do care for our families and that doesn't make us any less efficient as businesswomen."

"Statistics show that there are fewer working women but more executive women around today, so there is no need for magazines to push the executive image so much. And executive women do read *Prima* — they want to make jam and clothes as well as running businesses, although a few years ago they might not have been secure enough to admit that."

Joyce Hopkirk, editor of *She* magazine, believes that "80 per cent of our readers have jobs and are mothers. Women want a home and children and a job — and that's a decent aim in my view, but if you want all that, you have to be Superwoman and Superwoman is very much alive and well and living in London and Birmingham and all over Britain."

The entrants for *Good Housekeeping's* Entertaining Woman Award — still open to hopeful applicants until October 10 — include a grandmother with "one and a half grandchildren" and two teenage daughters at home who run a "high class tableware hire business" with a turnover of £1,700 a year; and a mother with frail elderly parents to look after, who decided to start an agency caring for old people and now boasts a turnover of £428,000, while coping admirably with her own heavy family commitments.

Options's winner, Pippa Gee, is a 33-year-old mother of two young children, who built a £2,000 investment into a business with an expected turnover in excess of £4 million this year — while managing to pick up her children from school every day, too.

Her husband, a solicitor, may cook most of the meals, but I can't help reflecting that anybody, man or woman, has to be pretty spry to earn the bread and butter while making jam — let alone love — on the side.

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Private gaols? Why not go further, asks Alice Thomas Ellis

All mod cons

I once made a character in a novel speculate on the possibility of forcing each family with a criminal member to keep him incarcerated at home. She said: "You know how the mental hospitals send people's lunatics home to them now... well, what if the prisons did the same? The Government could issue each family with a cage for their own felon, and depending on how they felt about him they'd treat him accordingly. If he was normally quite a kind person who'd taken up robbing banks because he was short of cash they could put him on his bread, and vodka in his water, and if he was a horror they could empty the potato peelings over him whenever they felt like it."

I was vaguely reminded of this impractical suggestion when learning that Britain is considering the privatization of prisons. Would these prisons, I wondered, be more or less comfortable for their inmates than the State variety and did prison care?

The only prison I ever visited was an open one. It was very like a motorway motel, with a lot of Formica and some plastic-looking plants, and I could hardly wait to get away. The prisoners looked very glum as their visitors left for the outside world, but conditions there could not be described as atrocious. I have also visited what used to be known as a Borsal and neither was that too overly unpleasant. Again the sense of oppression, the awareness that the inmates were not free to leave when they chose, was what gave the place its uniquely forbidding air. And this is surely as it should be.

I have met ex-prisoners who

have claimed bitterly that while they were prepared to acknowledge that they owed a debt to society, they felt that loss of liberty was the price they had been asked to pay and that they should not be called upon to share, with several other prisoners, cells that had been designed for one; that no human being should be subjected to the standards of hygiene common in many prisons and that they had not been condemned to submit to brutality either from

'The only prison I visited was like a motorway motel'

prison staff or from other inmates.

Overcrowding is a prime cause of violent dissatisfaction and unrest in most prisons; the State is proposing to build as many more as it can afford and the prognosis is that most of them will be filled almost immediately. I am familiar with this syndrome, having the same problem with books and bookshelves.

So is it a good idea to let private enterprise take a hand? My reaction to all mention of

privatization is to wonder who is going to legislate on where to draw the fine line between the interests of the shareholders and those of the customers — in this case presumably the prisoners.

It has already been suggested that management may not be keen on implementing rehabilitation programmes since the high rate of recidivism would ensure high rates of profit.

I can never understand why we are so unimaginative in the matter of punishment. While not suggesting that thieves should have their hands lopped off, it is counter-productive to throw all transgressors into places where they will meet people who may well teach them further criminal skills and where they will make useful contacts for the future when they are again at large. Perhaps we could paint them green.

Those in gainful employment before they were apprehended could possibly be fined on a monthly basis. They wouldn't like that. Only those who represent a physical danger to others need be kept under lock and key.

I realize that some of my suggestions are impractical, but the English are more prone than any of their European neighbours to flinging people into gaol. Women react particularly badly to prison life, and few of them are actually dangerous to the community.

Perhaps my character's idea is not as absurd as it seemed. Nobody was ever improved by a spell inside and I don't believe private prisons would achieve anything except incarcerating a yet more unsuitable proportion of the population.

Paper playtime

Children aged from four to seven will have a constructive alternative to the traditional comic tomorrow, when *Jump* hits the news-stands. The editor of this glossy £1-magazine, Diane James, hopes it "will give 125,000 mothers the chance to put their feet up with a cup of tea", tucked inside the colourful publication (which features contemporary children's stories, "make and do" ideas and a Ted Hughes poem) is *High-Jump*, a pull-out supplement for parents. Particularly useful, James hopes, is a service offering parents the opportunity to buy through the post many of the books, toys and games mentioned in the magazine.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information



Quote me...

"Plastic surgery? Never. Plastic surgeons are the last thing women need now. This is a time of celebration of what women are naturally."

Raquel Welch

Cool competition

Dayville's ice-cream, not to be scooped by the American company which has named flavours for Vice-President George Bush ("Preppy"), and Reverend Pat Robertson, the television evangelist, ("Born Again Chocolate"), is ready to rise to the British challenge; but so far it has not come up with any suitable names (how about "Yorkshire Ripple" for Arthur Scargill?). Dayville's will dish out 12 litres of ice-cream to the *Times* reader who comes up with the most apt political flavours for Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock. Suggestions on a postcard please, to arrive not later than first post on September 23, to: Briefly, *Times* Features, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Dayville's decision on the winner will be final.

Josephine Fairley

Battle on the home front

A fledgling union hopes to improve the lot of South Africa's domestics



Margaret Nhlapo: 'one person who cannot be pushed around'

"I was always a leader. In my street people came to me for help. Perhaps I had had a bit more education. I felt very sorry for them, particularly the elderly. It was that sympathy which kept on growing that made me." The woman talking is Margaret Nhlapo, founder member of the South African Domestic Workers Association four years ago, and today national publicity secretary of the union it officially became last year.

Nhlapo, a calm, serious woman in her late forties, arrived in London at the weekend. The cause she comes to talk about is very straightforward. The remarkable thing, perhaps, is that no one talks about it more. There are

some 800,000 domestic workers in South Africa who are registered and perhaps a million more who are not. Just under 90 per cent of them are women. Domestic workers have no rights, other than being entitled to a month's notice, or pay in lieu. They have no claims on sick leave, overtime, pensions, unemployment benefits, or even

"Changing her, I thought of changing others," she says. "To women who came to me. I said: 'You must speak out. You're not cars; you don't have to be driven'."

In 1973, she married again. Her new husband was a driver, an assistant with a mining office. She was fortunate: her employer allowed him to come and share her room. "Usually a woman domestic worker cannot be with her husband or her children. A wife can't be a wife, or a mother a mother. She's lucky if she sees her child once a year." (Nhlapo had to leave behind a small daughter when she moved to Johannesburg.)

Reactions in South Africa, from both government and employers, to the forming of SADWU, and even more to its affiliation with COSATU, have been hostile. "We used to be tolerated, in a tacit quiet sort of way. Now we are the enemy." Two of the union's

'You're not cars: you don't have to be driven'

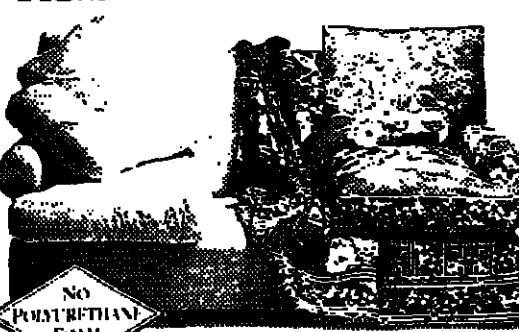
organizing members were gaoled for some months last year and a third is now in detention in the Cape.

Most striking has been the increase in unfair dismissals and assaults by employers on their servants and the setting of dogs on them. "Last year, we had 813 cases; this year, it's already close to 2,000."

But there have been gains. "The publicity we get is waking people up. Employers ring us up and ask about entitlements and whether or not this Common Law everyone is beginning to talk about really exists." The Common Law, which lays down certain basic conditions between employer and employee, has long been on the statute books, it has simply never been regarded as relevant to domestic workers. "We read them out what it says about pay or leave. We outline the things we are fighting for — holidays, sick pay, a minimum wage (about £16 a week). Some are beginning to listen."

Caroline Moorehead
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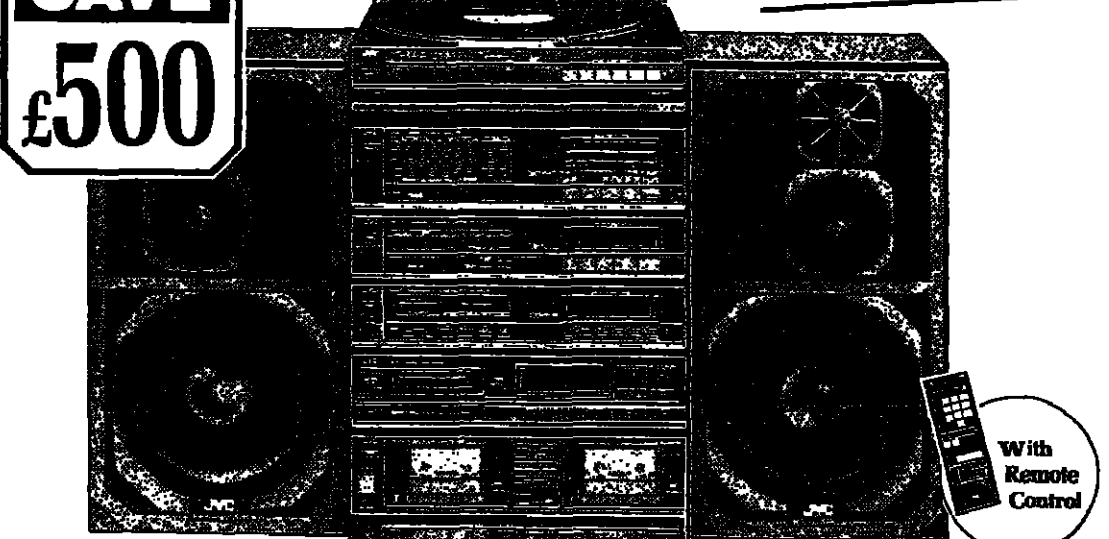
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FOCUS

REGIONAL AIRPORTS/2

Smaller centres win their share of the development work

Many development projects are under way in Britain, and though the biggest works are inevitably concentrated at the London airports, the regions have a reasonable share.

A new £27 million domestic terminal is to be built at Manchester International within two years as a way to ease passenger congestion before the development of terminal 2 is completed in the early 1990s. By this time, Manchester will be handling an estimated 12 million passengers a year.

The opening of a new passenger terminal at Birmingham International has stimulated traffic so much that the number of scheduled airlines using it grew from eight in 1983 to 15 last year, while charter flights now serve 40 destinations in Europe and North Africa. The airport's purpose-built air cargo centre was opened last November, replacing outdated facilities housed in an old World War II aircraft hangar, now demolished.

Part of Birmingham airport — the site of the old terminal area — has been designated a freeport, one of three airport sites nationally, and the only inland site. The freeport was opened late last year, and the first tenant moved in soon after. A further area for a second phase of the freeport has been designated.

About £1 million of investment has been committed over the last 18 months for improvements at Humberside airport. The main works include a terminal extension, costing £600,000, and forecourt and aircraft apron development. The terminal extension should be ready for use by the end of this year. The airport has a 1,500-metre runway, but a feasibility report which went to the county council recently commented, "the limited length... places a serious constraint on the aircraft which can use the airport and the services which can be provided. A runway length of 1,800 metres would be required to develop routes beyond 600 nautical miles, which includes the major Mediterranean resorts."

Plymouth airport, owned by Brymon Airways, completed a £2.5 million redevelopment

programme this summer. The work included the widening of one runway, and the rebuilding and realigning of another, installation of a new instrument landing system, with runway and approach lighting, the building of a new fire station and air-traffic control building, improved refuelling facilities and additional emergency access roads.

The work at Plymouth has been used as a pattern for construction at the new London City airport in Docklands, in particular the instrument landing system with a steep, 7½-degree glide slope for use by short take-off-and-landing aircraft.

John Mowlem, civil engineers, built London City at a cost of £30 million, and will be the operator when it starts operations on October 26. The airport has a single runway, terminal building topped by a control tower, and a row of "gates" from where the airlines are boarded. It is situated in Silverdun, six miles from the City of London, accessible by taxi or shuttle bus.

First services are being operated by Brymon, and Eurocity Express, a subsidiary of the British Midland group, to nearer European business destinations, notably Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels. Sabena, the Belgian national airline, has struck an agreement with Eurocity for its passengers to travel on Eurocity aircraft and other European



Never too young to fly: Tomorrow's market about to get airborne

airlines are expected to open services to the new airport before long.

Bournemouth International airport has a new £1 million passenger terminal and is raising money for a second-phase development. The airport, one of the new privatized facilities now run as a limited company by two local authorities, is concentrating on attracting new business.

Cardiff-Wales airport completed a 213-metre extension to the main runway in April last year, to bring its total length to 2,354 metres, enabling wide-bodied jets to fly fully loaded across the Atlantic. The airport handled half a million passengers for the first time in 1986, and expects to exceed that figure this year.

Luton airport is expecting a record number of passengers to pass through its new terminal this year. The figure of half a million was exceeded between the start of April and the middle of June.

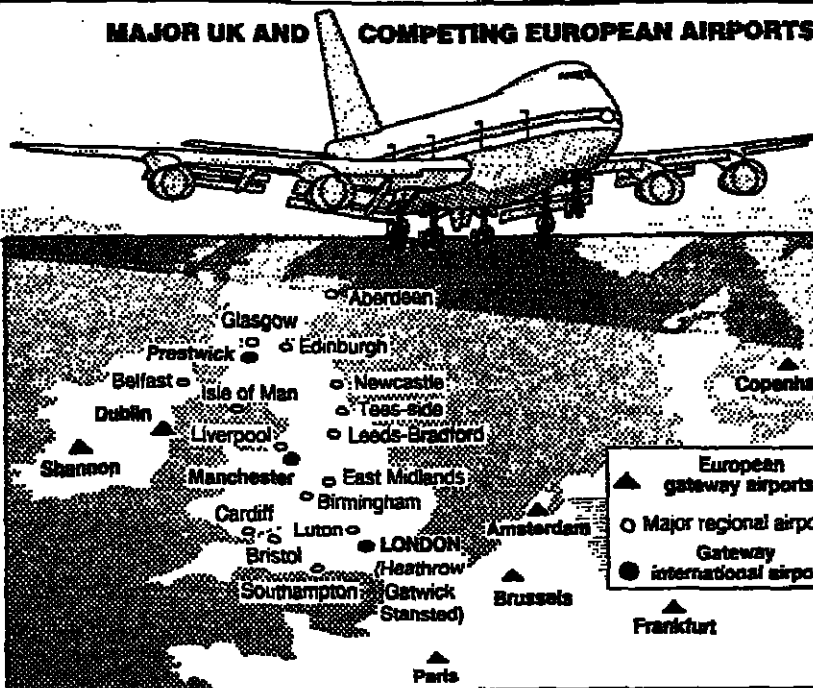
The airport director, David Bates, commented: "It looks like being a staggering year for us."

Luton, the traditional package holiday airport, is beginning to see scheduled services, the latest being Virgin Atlantic to Dublin.

BAA has an enormous programme of investment totalling £850 million over the next five years. The largest single project is the construction of a new terminal, able to take up to eight million passengers a year, at Stansted. Thirty-six million pounds had been committed on this and other Stansted developments by spring this year and future costs are estimated at £259-million. The new terminal will open in 1991.

The second, or north, passenger terminal at Gatwick will have cost £180 million by the time it is opened early next year. Terminal 3, at Heathrow, is being refurbished at a total £95 million by the time the work is complete at the end of this decade.

In Scotland, the terminal at Glasgow airport is to be expanded, while the aircraft parking aprons have been extended and resurfaced.



An end to airport duty free?

TAXATION

One large, grey cloud on the horizon for airports in Britain is the proposal by the European Economic Commission to abolish fiscal frontiers in the Community by the end of 1992, the implication being that duty and tax-free facilities for those travelling within the Community would also come to an end by that date.

It was only recently that the Government gave the green light for regional airports to operate their own duty and tax-free shops. Most of those with international services have taken advantage of the policy, and in some cases the additional income has helped to tip airports into the black.

In the case of BAA operating Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick, and Stansted airports, in addition to Heathrow and Gatwick, about half of the annual income comes from commercial enterprises, largely tax and duty-free shopping, and about half of those revenues come from passengers travelling within the Community.

No detailed proposals have so far been made on the issue by the EEC. These are anxiously awaited by those who run the airports, for not only would such a regulation produce a swinging reduction in income, with the need to make up the shortfall from other sources — among them increased landing charges, resulting in higher fares.

Millions more will be flying

There are now more than 50 British-registered airlines, and the total looks set to increase as the Civil Aviation Authority applies a liberal policy towards newcomers, always providing that they are economically sound and meet the statutory safety standards.

This same liberal policy, pursued by the Government in its bilateral air service agreements with other countries, is resulting in more and more foreign airlines coming into British airports.

Regional airports are obtaining a share of these new services. In fact several of the operators which have recently started up have based themselves in the provinces, rather than seeking to add to the congestion at the two main airports serving London, Heathrow and Gatwick.

According to Department of Transport forecasts, the regional airports will be expected to play an increasing role in future in accommodating new services.

While airports in Britain, other than Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton, handled 25 million passengers between last year, that total could rise to 32 million by 1990, 43 million by 1995, and 54 million by the year 2000, assuming rates of increase of between 2.1 per cent and 5.7 per cent a year.

The figures for these four

airports at those same dates are 50 million, 66 million, 89 million and 114 million.

Forecasting in civil aviation is notoriously difficult, due to the impact that international political, economic, and fuel-price developments can have, but it is obvious even so that the regional airports are going to have to face up to a massive investment programme for new buildings, runways, taxiways, parking aprons and associated equipment if they are to cope smoothly with the enormous numbers of additional passengers and freight.

Near-term planning by the airports is obviously being hindered by a lack of any knowledge as to the shape of the British airline industry following the £237 million take-over bid by British Airways for British Caledonian Airways.

The bid is now before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is expected to give a verdict in November.

Should the merger be approved, there is bound to be a rationalization of routes, even though BCal retains a separate identity, as promised by BA. If it is rejected, there are likely to be other bids from other British airlines, or from airlines in Europe, and in the United States.

Whatever happens, the airports will be expected to adapt to the new pattern, and airport planners' headaches in trying to keep pace with such a volatile industry will certainly not become less painful.

The one certain factor is that competition will continue and grow, both between UK airlines on the domestic routes

and between UK airlines and foreign carriers flying into Britain. Competition on the trunk routes within Britain between BA, BCal, British Midland, Dan-Air and others, is now fierce in service standards, if not in fares, while there is a choice of more than 200 flights a week from the London area airports to Holland as a result of the liberalization of the air services agreement between Britain and the Netherlands.

Liberalization of civil aviation within the remainder of Europe is proving a slower and far more difficult process, but it will happen, and UK airlines and airports are looking with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension towards 1992, the date set by the European Economic Community for "open skies" between its member states.

BAA use aggressive sales pitch

The newly-privatized BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, is taking advantage of the highly-competitive environment in which UK airports find themselves today to market aggressively a wide range of technological, financial, and economic skills.

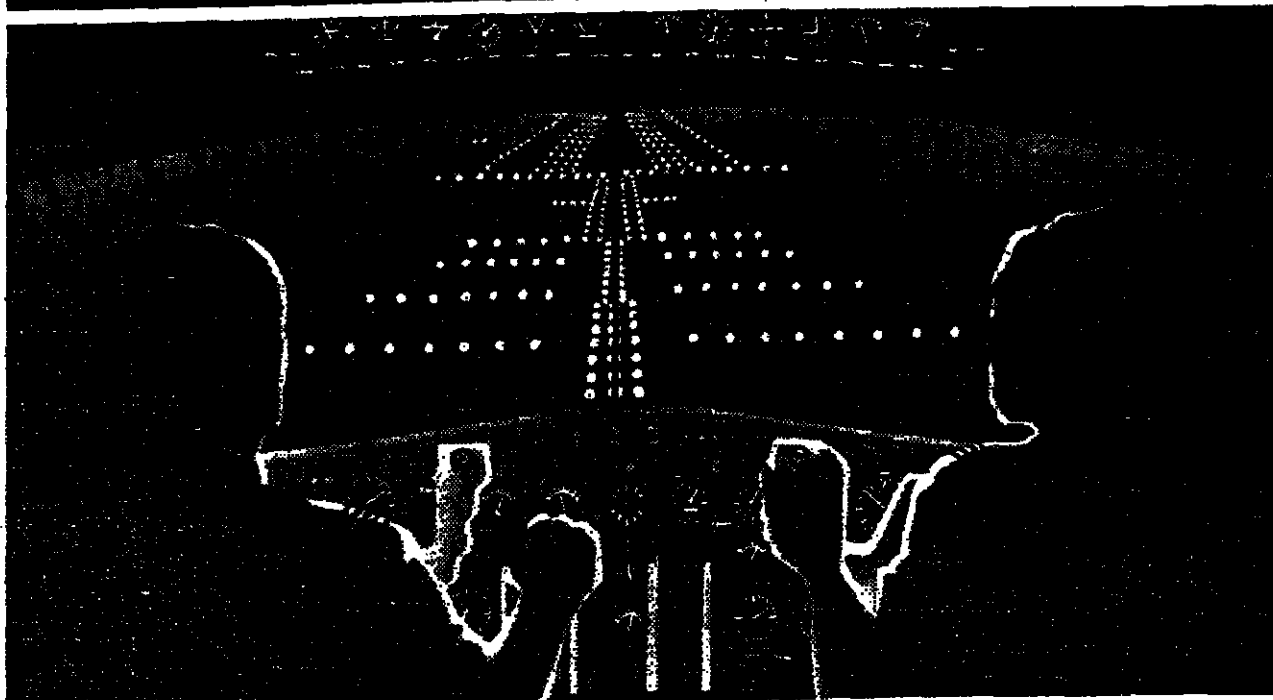
British Airports Services Ltd was formed as a subsidiary of BAA to provide services to the BAA group, but it is emphasized that this is on a highly-competitive basis against companies outside the "family".

BASL charges its parent for its services, and also sells these services to external

organizations, mainly regional airports in Britain and airports abroad.

The company's expertise covers engineering, financial and information systems, airport planning, commercial activities, personnel and training services.

BASL has taken over the responsibility for overseas consultancy work formerly carried out by British Airports International Ltd, and now owns half the issued share capital of BAI, which manages Southend, Exeter, and Southampton airports. The balance of the shares in BAI is owned by International Aeradio, a subsidiary of British Telecommunications.



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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM.
6.35 Edgar Kennedy in Mind Over Mouse (b/w). 6.55 Weather.
7.00 Breakfast Time includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather 9.05 Neighbours (r). 9.25 Star Memories. Paul Daniels talks to Nick Ross about his favourite television moments (r).
10.00 News and weather 10.05 The Flintstones. Cartoon series 10.25 Play School. Followed by Wilko the Wisp (r).
10.55 Five to Eleven. A thought for the day from Jan Harvey 11.00 News and weather.
11.05 The Waterloos. The quarter-finals of the Greenall Whitley Crown Green Bowling Handicap, introduced by Richard Dwyer at the Waterloo Hotel in Blackpool. 11.30 News and weather 12.05 Dallas. Will Bobby find a way of stopping J.R. making a deal that could cripple the company? (r). 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 Neighbours. Jim's family are in a New Year's Eve celebration with Zoe. 1.50 Life File. Kay Alexander reports on premature birth and abortion and visits Birmingham's Dudley Road Hospital (first shown on BBC Midlands).
2.20 The Waterloos. The semi-finals of the Greenall Whitley Crown Green Bowling Handicap. 3.25 Gardeners' Direct Line. Geoffrey Smith and Peter Seabrook answer viewers' telephone queries. To take part ring Leeds (0532) 446222 between 11.30am and 2.30pm.
3.50 Totter. (r). 4.10 Dudley Do-Right 4.15 Wacky Dads (r).

BBC2

- 6.55 Open University: Shorefields School - A New Reality. Ends at 7.20. 9.00 Ceefax.
9.20 Liberal Assembly 1987. The debates on animal welfare, the government in Scotland, and AIDS.
12.30 Ceefax 1.30 The Flumps (r). 1.35 The Waterloos. Highlights of the last two quarter-final matches.
2.00 News and weather 2.02 Liberal Assembly 1987. The debates on education, youth, and the growing disparity between Britain's rich and poor. Includes news and weather at 3.00, 3.55 News, regional news and weather.
3.55 The Waterloos. The final of the Greenall Whitley Crown Green Bowling Handicap.
5.00 Northern Hemisphere. A documentary about the Over the Top Puppet Company run by Mike and Eileen Hares (first shown on BBC North East).
5.30 Gardeners' World from Paul and Eve Hous' garden in the heart of rural Shropshire (r).
6.00 Film Jailhouse Rock (1957, b/w) starring Elvis Presley and Judy Tyler. Laughing in

- prison after being found guilty of manslaughter. Vince Everett is taught to play the guitar by fellow inmates and a star is born. Directed by Richard Thorpe. The first of a new 13-part series during which a well-to-do family in Berkshire is restored to its Victorian glory. (Ceefax)
7.35 The Waterloos. The first of a new 13-part series during which a well-to-do family in Berkshire is restored to its Victorian glory. (Ceefax)
8.05 Timewatch presented by Peter France. Christopher Andrew investigates the 20th Century Letter and Times journalist Gabriel Roney examines the story of the Prince of Transylvania.
9.00 Mr A. S. H. Harkley receives the thanks of Colonel Spiker when he treats his shrapnel wounds; and Frank thinks he has found an exploded bomb (r).
9.25 The Shutter Falls. (See Choice)
10.25 Newsnight 11.15 Weather.
11.20 The Waterloos. Highlights of the final of the Greenall Whitley Crown Green Bowling Handicap.
12.10 Open University: Geology - The Capital Reef 12.35 The Thames Barrier: Systems in Action. Ends at 1.05.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am introduced by Caroline Righan and Mike Morris.
7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Keys. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; sport at 7.40; and pop music at 7.55. After Nine includes a discussion on communicating with teenagers.
9.25 Thames news headlines.
9.30 Chain Letters. Word game.
10.00 Santa Barbara. The mysterious Dominic offers to help Joe and Channing Junior's real killer 10.25 News headlines 10.30 The Time...The Place...Topical discussion chaired by Mike Scott.
11.10 Aspects (r). 11.20 Thames news headlines 11.30 Getting On. For the older viewer. Gillian Reynolds talks to John Moore, secretary of state for social services. Tony Van den Bergh is in Scotland to find out how the poll tax will affect older people; and David Hobman interviews Evelyn McEwan of Age Concern. 12.00 The Subliminal.
12.30 News with Julia Somerville 12.50 Thames news.
1.00 A Country Practice. Medical drama serial set in rural Australia.
2.00 Heirloom. John Jay examines items of jewellery brought in by the studio audience 2.30 The Box. A fashion magazine programme with contributions from, this week, Jerry Hall, Toyah and Inman Khan.
3.00 Take the High Road. Harry learns from Lady Margaret exactly what can and cannot be hunted at this time of the year in Glenorchy. 3.25 News headlines 3.30 Sports and Daughters.
4.00 The Ponderies. The first of a new animated series 4.10 The Adventure Line. 4.20 Teddy Ruxpin 4.45 Hold Tight with Barbie Wilde and Graham Stark.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 Schools.
12.00 Silent Classics: The Eagle (1925, b/w) starring Rudolph Valentino. Drama about a young Cossack officer who rebuffs the amorous advances of Catherine the Great. Directed by Clarence Brown.
1.30 Islands. A performance of Luis de Pablo's work by the chamber group, Alea, the RTVE Symphony Orchestra and the Contemporary Music Group of Madrid.
2.00 Film: Two Girls and a Sailor (1941, b/w) starring Van Johnson, Jane Foyson and Gloria Grahame. Musical about two sisters who fall for the same sailor. Directed by Richard Thorpe.
4.20 Movie Museum (b/w) The first movie ad in 1895 for a whisky manufacturer and The Noise of Bombs, a 1914 Keystone Cops chase film.
4.30 The Gong Show.
5.30 A Dream of Jeanette. Vintage American silent series.
6.00 Conference Report. Today's highlights from the Liberal Assembly in Harrogate.
6.30 A Sense of Place. Damian Gorman is the subject of the first of three programmes about the stars and their roots (r).
7.00 Channel 4 News with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.
7.50 Comment and Weather.
8.00 The Secret Magazine programme for home occupiers presented by Judith Chalmers and Andy Craig includes the latest designs in bedroom furniture.
8.30 Sexually Unacceptable. Roy Gosling on how attitudes have changed towards homosexuals.
9.00 Callas in Japan. Robert Calley interviews what proved to be the last performance by Maria Callas, singing with Giuseppe Di Stefano at a 1974 recital in Tokyo. The performance includes the opera's last song and the final duet from Carmen.
10.00 Mozart in Japan. Tony Palmer's film, part performance, part documentary, about the Japanese pianist Mitsuko Uchida.
11.30 Japan: Food for the Spirit. A documentary examining Japanese culture and society through its cuisine. Ends at 12.20.

Developing love story

TELEVISION CHOICE

● The herring trade of late 19th century Scotland and the emerging art of photography form the backdrop for Norman Macdonald's love story. *The Shutter Falls* (BBC2, 9.25pm). Ceil (Emer Gillepie), a pretty girl from the Hebridean island of Lewis, packs herrings on the quayside while aspiring to the more skilled craft of gutting. She already has two suitors - a fellow Gael and the skipper of a fishing boat. Then into her life comes Alexander (Anthony Higgins), a photographer from England who has come to capture with his lens the hard times of the fishing girls' their appalling living conditions and promiscuity, tuberculosis. Once dishevelled Alexander starts to work his charms, the other two have no chance. Posing tastefully in the nude for the sake of art is for Kate only the prelude to a more intimate relationship, suggesting that the Victorians, even simple Scottish fishing

Anthony Higgins (right) as Alexander Watson, a 19th century photographer (*The Shutter Falls*; BBC2, 9.25pm)

girls, were rather less sexually inhibited than they are often made out to be. *The Shutter Falls* is a leisurely piece, which dwells much, and effectively, on its Banffshire location, while making too insistent use of background music to compensate for the lack of dramatic tension. But the almost documentary depiction of the fishing industry, and the cultural traditions of speech and dance that surround it, is

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).
5.30 Adrian John 7.00 Mike Smith's Breakfast Show 9.30 Simon Bates 12.30 Newsbeat (Frank Parnaby) 12.45 Mike Read 3.00 Steve Wright 5.30 Newsbeat 5.45 Simon Mayo (incl Top 30 Album Reviews) 7.30 James Lancel 10.00-12.00 John Peel. VHF Stereo Radios 1 and 2. 4.00am As Radio 2. 4.35pm As Radio 2.
7.00-7.30 As Radio 2. 10.00 As Radio 2. 12.00-4.00am As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).
4.00am Colin Berry 5.30 Ray Moore 7.30 Derek Jameson's Breakfast Show (from Wales) 12.30 Newsbeat 1.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.05 Diana Hurnford 3.30 Peter Seabrook 4.00 Newsbeat 4.15pm The Secret Magazine 5.30pm The Secret Magazine 6.00pm The Secret Magazine 6.30pm The Secret Magazine 7.00pm The Secret Magazine 7.30pm The Secret Magazine 8.00pm The Secret Magazine 8.30pm The Secret Magazine 9.00pm The Secret Magazine 9.30pm The Secret Magazine 10.00pm The Secret Magazine 10.30pm The Secret Magazine 11.00pm The Secret Magazine 11.30pm The Secret Magazine 12.00am The Secret Magazine 12.30am The Secret Magazine 1.00am The Secret Magazine 1.30am The Secret Magazine 2.00am The Secret Magazine 2.30am The Secret Magazine 3.00am The Secret Magazine 3.30am The Secret Magazine 4.00am The Secret Magazine 4.30am The Secret Magazine 5.00am The Secret Magazine 5.30am The Secret Magazine 6.00am The Secret Magazine 6.30am The Secret Magazine 7.00am The Secret Magazine 7.30am The Secret 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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1775.4 (same)
FT-SE 100
2264.5 (-7.3)
Bargains
31573 (39878)
USM (Datastream)
213.4 (+1.12)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6430 (+0.0085)
W German mark
2.9796 (+0.0056)
Trade-weighted
73.0 (+0.1)

Keep cash injection confirmed

Mr Tony O'Reilly, the Irish head of the Heinz food empire, yesterday confirmed that he was pumping £12 million into Keep Trust, the motor trading group, in return for a 30 per cent equity stake. The deal, which will also install Mr O'Reilly, the former Irish rugby international, in the Keep chain is being done through his Dublin investment group, Fitzwilliam. The Keep shares are being acquired at 40p each. Mr Greville Howard, the current Keep chairman, will become deputy chairman and chief executive and will join the Fitzwilliam board.

Consolid up

In its centenary year, Consolidated Gold Fields increased its attributable earnings from £68.1 million to £164.1 million. The final dividend was raised for the first time since 1980, from 16p to 18p, making a total of 27.5p. Ivanhoe Partners, headed by Mr T Boone Pickens, yesterday increased its offer for Newmont Mining Corporation, Consolidated's 26 per cent-owned US associate, from \$95 per share to \$105.

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SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2572.62 (-40.42)
Tokyo	Market Closed
Hong Kong	3646.92 (-2.92)
Amsterdam: Gen	2230.7 (+24.7)
Frankfurt	2008.9 (+5.4)
Brussels	5198.5 (+0.1)
Paris: CAC	4297.1 (-1.9)
Zurich: S&K Gen	608.70 (+5.20)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	1158.17 (-2.44)
FT-30	1775.4 (-7.3)
FT-100	2264.5 (-7.3)
FT Gold Mines	445.8 (-3.7)
FT Fixed Interest	91.80 (+0.7)
FT Govt Secs	85.45 (-0.02)

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Closing prices
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MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Lucas	745p (+10p)
English China	514p (+1p)
Costain Group	375p (+15p)
Hunter Assoc	454p (+15p)
United Spring	127p (+18p)
Granada	345p (+18p)
Tesco	248p (+18p)
Mersey Docks	282p (+18p)
British Syphon	186p (+14p)
Rank Org	111p (+23p)
Spectra	125p (+24p)
Trafalgar Park	475p (+55p)
Far Eastern Res	155p (+14p)
Sea Containers	125p (+10p)

FALLS:	
Miller & Sanhouse	815p (-35p)
Seatchi & Saatchi	335p (-19p)
Fisons	335p (-19p)
B Matthews	138p (-17p)
Myson	238p (-15p)

Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	10%
3-month Interbank 10 1/2:	10%
3-month eligible bills:	9 1/2-9 3/4%
Buying rate:	
US Prime Rate:	8 1/4%
Federal Funds:	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills:	6.38-6.36%
30-year bonds:	92 1/2-92 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:		New York:	
E: \$1.6430		E: \$1.6425	
E: DM2.9796		E: DM2.9796	
E: Sfr12.4686		E: Sfr12.4686	
E: FF19.3619		E: FF19.3619	
E: Yen236.24		E: Yen236.24	
E: Index: 73.0		E: Index: 73.0	
ECU 20.886519		SDR 20.785063	

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$450.35 pm \$458.80	
close \$459.25-459.75 (\$279.50-280.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$458.10-458.60	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) pm \$18.80 bbl (\$18.32)	
* Denotes latest trading price	

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Brewer to run hotel chain around the world

Bass pays £297m for Holiday Inns

By Cliff Feltman

Bass, Britain's biggest brewer, is paying £297 million for a chain of 178 Holiday Inns as part of a big expansion of its hotel interests.

The deal gives Bass control of the Holiday Inns operation worldwide outside the United States, Canada and Mexico. Bass already owns 117 hotels in Britain and Europe — some of which will be changed over to Holiday Inns — and now becomes a large force in the business.

But Mr Ian Prosser, the managing director of Bass, insisted the acquisition was not intended to compensate for the failure to buy the Hilton hotel chain which was sold to Ladbroke for £645 million two weeks ago.

He said Bass had looked at Hilton but declined to say whether it had put in a firm bid. "This deal is quite different and is a continuation of an arrangement we reached earlier this year with Holiday Corporation — the master company — when we acquired

a group of eight Holiday Inns in Europe," he said. The latest agreement, which will be completed in the first quarter of next year, involves the purchase of 13 hotels in the southern states of the US, and the right to run 165 hotels around the world.

Of these, 59 are in Europe, 11 in the Middle East, 25 in Africa, 30 in the Far East and Australia and 15 in the Caribbean.



Ian Prosser: buy was not to make up for failure on Hilton

bean and Latin America. There are also 25 being built with 5,882 rooms. The vast majority of the hotels are leased or franchised. The total number of bedrooms involved is 43,954.

Bass and Holiday Corporation will also be entering into a joint venture for the worldwide development of Holiday Inn hotels. This gives Bass the use of the Holiday Inn reservation system and its important marketing back-up.

Mr Michael Rose, the chairman of Holiday Corporation, said: "This joint venture is an excellent wedding of interests. We want to expand the Holiday Inn brand worldwide and think that Bass makes an excellent partner."

The sale of the hotel interests by Holiday Corporation — which will continue to operate about 1,400 hotels — follows a refinancing operation earlier this year resulting in a decision to cut its debts.

The hotels being acquired by Bass are expected to turn in

pretax profits of about £17.5 million in the current year. Last year they suffered, like other international hotel groups, from the drop in tourists.

As part of the deal, Bass is subscribing for convertible stock in Holiday Corporation which, when fully converted, could give it a 9 per cent stake in the group.

Mr Prosser, who is expected to join the main board of Holiday Corporation, said: "The deal effectively means that we will be running the worldwide hotels under a franchise and at the same time operating a joint venture agreement to continue improving standards. Some of our existing Crest hotels may be converted to Holiday Inns but it is likely that they will be driven alongside, particularly in Britain."

Bass, through its Crest Hotels and Toby divisions, already operates 117 hotels with nearly 13,000 bedrooms in Britain and Europe.

Yeutter 'amazed' by record US trade gap

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States current account deficit, the broadest measure of the country's trade performance, rose to a record \$41.1 billion (£25.1 million) in the second quarter, dashing Administration hopes that the situation had improved in recent months.

Officials said the deficit for the April-June quarter compared unfavourably with revised figures of \$36.8 billion for the first quarter, slightly better than the \$37.1 billion reported earlier.

At the same time, the Commerce Department reported that US retail sales rose by 1.3 per cent last month in response to a sharp improvement in car sales.

The gain, while at the low

end of market expectations, was the largest since last February and compared with a 0.5 per cent increase in July. Market analysts had predicted an overall gain of 3.5 per cent in August.

Industrial production also increased last month by a modest 0.3 per cent, down from earlier market estimates of 0.4 per cent.

The gain in output, compared with an increase of 0.8 per cent in July and was 4.5 per cent above similar 1986 figures.

The second quarter deficit repeated the pattern of 1986, when the US current account fell deeper into deficit every quarter. Over the past two weeks, as Congressional officials have begun deliberations on the most protectionist legislation since the 1930s, US officials have tried to paint a more optimistic picture of trade performance.

But Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative, said yesterday the "improvement has not been as significant as we need for a significant turnaround." He was "amazed and disappointed" by the failure of the trade deficit to respond more quickly to the dramatic drop in the dollar since the Plaza Accord devaluation in 1985.

"I thought last year that when we would be going into this conference with the Congress over trade policy, the trade numbers would be good. They obviously are not."

Increasing digitalization of business information services has helped IBM to enter the market for dealing-room software, as computer processable data ties in better with IBM's business than the "passive" information provided on video systems.

Radix is the maiden product of the ISE's development programme, Orbit. Initially, it provides dealers with an information display system, but planned developments will allow dealing, turning it into the full corporate work station.

Radix will at first be available only in Britain, viewed by IBM as the world's most deregulated market and the forerunner of developments in other key financial centres. The price per work station will range between £12,000 and £17,000, depending on the size of the order.

Digital information is already provided by leading operators such as Reuters.

Surprise at £800m gilt auction

By David Smith

The Bank of England is to auction £800 million of long-dated gilts next Wednesday, a smaller amount than expected. Analysts had anticipated an auction of £1 billion of stock, as in May when the first auction — for short-dated stock — took place.

The Bank appears to have opted for a smaller amount to fit in with its funding requirements. But the current nervous state of the gilt market is also likely to have been a consideration.

The auction will be for £800 million of an existing stock, Treasury 9 per cent 2006. This will allow the market to determine more easily the price for the auctioned stock.

Gilts rose slightly on the news of the auction, with sentiment helped by the fact that the amount was smaller than expected. But prices slipped back to end broadly unchanged on the day.

The market is nervous ahead of the August money supply figures, due on Friday, and the August trade figures.

IBM puts help on line for the City

By Colin Narborough

IBM yesterday launched a new software package developed by the International Stock Exchange and intended to make life in the City's hectic trading rooms simpler but more effective.

The package, called Radix, integrates the multitude of screen-based information services currently used by dealers, salesmen and analysts in the financial trading business.

The securities industry is seen as the computer giant's prime target for the package that is offered with strategic IBM hardware, installation and back-up services.

Nomura, the world's largest securities house, and Daiwa, the second largest, have been signed up already. By the end of next month, IBM expects to have more than 400 Radix work stations installed.

The 3,200 trading work stations currently operating in the Square Mile are potential targets for the package, which IBM regards as the state of the art. It sees the continuity of its own hardware, and the ISE commitment to continued

development of the package, as sales triumphs.

Increasing digitalization of business information services has helped IBM to enter the market for dealing-room software, as computer processable data ties in better with IBM's business than the "passive" information provided on video systems.

Radix is the maiden product of the ISE's development programme, Orbit. Initially, it provides dealers with an information display system, but planned developments will allow dealing, turning it into the full corporate work station.

Radix will at first be available only in Britain, viewed by IBM as the world's most deregulated market and the forerunner of developments in other key financial centres. The price per work station will range between £12,000 and £17,000, depending on the size of the order.

Digital information is already provided by leading operators such as Reuters.

Granada in £53m sale to Thorn

By Alison Eadie

Granada Group, the television rental, retail and leisure combine, yesterday made further disposals of its European television rental subsidiaries to Thorn EMI for £53 million in cash.

The subsidiaries, with 45 shops and 240,000 rental units, are in Denmark, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

Last December, Thorn bought Granada's Swedish subsidiary with 35,000 units, which is already proving highly successful and profitable after rationalization of the branch network.

Mr Derek Lewis, Granada's financial director, said the subsidiaries being sold were too small and took up too much management time.

Granada is retaining its rental and retail businesses in Britain, Canada, Germany, the US and the NASA retail chain in France.

The businesses retained have an annual turnover of £600 million against £40 million for the five being sold.

Thorn believes it can squeeze larger earnings out of the businesses.

The deal gives Thorn, already the largest rental business in the world, market leadership in France and Denmark and access to Italy and Switzerland.

Last month, Thorn bought Rent-a-Center, a large American rental business, for £371 million.

In addition to the £53 million purchase price, Thorn will take on £11 million of local borrowings.

The acquisition allows for a downward revision in price, if the final audit reveals values below the £37 million estimated net assets.

Pretax profits for the five businesses in 1985/86 were £2.5 million.

Mr Colin Southgate, chief executive of Thorn, said: "We are delighted by the added value this brings to our already successful international rental business in Europe and the Pacific."



And next, the children: Mr George Davies, chief executive, and a young Next BG model

Next remains buoyant with a 45% increase

By Alexandra Jackson

Next, the fast-moving high street fashion chain, revealed yesterday that it had not felt any of the slackness in the market-place which is said to have affected some of its competitors.

Pretax profits in the six months to end-July rose by 45 per cent to £32.8 million. Next is changing its year-end from August to January, so figures for the 11 months to end-July were also published, showing more than doubled profits from £25.8 million to £60.3 million.

A second interim dividend of 2.5p was declared.

Mr George Davies, chief executive of the group, who will also be chairman after the annual meeting in October, reported that the current trading period had started well.

Of the £24.6 million earned from retailing, high street activities contributed £11.2 million and home shopping £13.4 million.

In response to recurrent speculation, Mr Davies said: "We are not interested in any part of Storchouse. It is too expensive."

City commentators thought that if Next had acquired

Storehouse's subsidiary, Mothercare, this would have accelerated its move into the £1.2 billion children's clothing market.

Yesterday, however, Next launched its Next BG (Next Boys and Girls) chain. By the end of October, 40 outlets will

have been opened around the country. The target is to develop a chain of 200 outlets.

At present Next has 1.8 per cent of the children's clothing market, primarily through its Grattan mail order business.

In January, Next will launch Next Direct, a new concept in the mail order catalogue business, widely expected to revolutionize the old-fashioned image of selling by post. Its launch and development are costing the group £8 million.

In May, Next took over Combined English Stores, with nearly 1 million square feet of selling space. Next has decided to sell from its portfolio. Allens, the chemist chain, and hopes to realize at least £40 million.

Booming drug sales in US lift Fisons to record £44m

By Carol Ferguson

Fisons, the pharmaceuticals and scientific instrument manufacturer, looks well on course for its seventh successive year of profits growth.

Pretax profits announced yesterday for the half-year jumped 20 per cent to a record £44.6 million and earnings per share rose 17 per cent to 7p. The interim dividend is increased 20 per cent to 1.53p.

Mr John Kerridge, chairman and chief executive of Fisons, said: "Strong international performances by all three divisions, with outstanding results in the US, produced record profits in the first half."

Nevertheless, these results were at the bottom of the range of analysts' expectations and the shares slumped 20p to 335p.

Among reasons given for the fall was disappointment at the progress with Tilade, Fisons' new anti-asthmatic drug aimed at older patients and more extreme cases than are treated with its established asthmatic prophylactic, Intal.

So far Tilade has gained approval only in the UK and in the comparatively small

markets of Holland, Belgium and Italy where the price has still to be negotiated.

However Intal, and the related products Opicrom and Nasacrom, had an exceptional six months in the US. Sales of Intal alone were up 40 per cent and Fisons is now market leader with a 16 per cent share by value. As a result

profits from pharmaceuticals were up 20 per cent to £27.1 million.

"The US market is expanding at 25 per cent a year and we are not on a plateau of sales yet", said Mr Kerridge.

Elsewhere in the world, Intal sales made encouraging progress.

Profits in the scientific equipment division grew 22 per cent to £11.1 million, while new acquisitions contributed £2 million and horticulture grew by 25 per cent to £4.5 million.

The group's tax charge is gradually rising, but remains subnormal due to past losses and active tax management. Fisons has no net debt, and plans to fund its proposed £50 million capital expenditure out of cash flows.

£1.5 billion price tag pinned on Union Bancorp Standard 'set to sell US bank'

By Richard Thomson

Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered, the London-based international banking group, is negotiating to sell Union Bancorp, its Californian banking subsidiary, for a total of \$1.5 billion (£913 million), sources in the US said yesterday. The proceeds of the sale would restore Standard's hard-pressed capital ratios to some of the best in the sector.

The news pushed up Standard's share price by 10p although it closed at 820p, slightly below its high for the day.

American regional banks currently command high sale prices and \$1.5 billion for Union would represent a substantial goodwill element over the bank's \$750 million net asset value. The sale would include United Bank of Arizona which is now part of Union Bancorp.

Suggested buyers for Union are Wells Fargo — which last year bought Crocker National Bank, Midland Bank's troubled Californian subsidiary, for \$1 billion — and Dai Ichi Kangyo, the Japanese bank.

A spokesman for Standard Chartered said yesterday that the group was treating the story as a market rumour and had

Midland Bank yesterday announced that Hanson Trust had raised its stake in the bank from 5.83 per cent to 6.17 per cent, including a substantial number of share options. Midland's share price remained virtually unchanged after the news, however, closing at 508p, as few City experts believed Lord Hanson was preparing a full bid for the bank. Lord Hanson's original stake in Midland cost some £100 million. News of the increased Hanson stake follows weekend revelations that Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, had approached Midland with a takeover proposal but had been rebuffed.

nothing to say about it at this stage.

The sale would be a considerable advance on the £300 million which Mr Peter Graham, the chairman, said in August that the group would raise through disposals during the next year. It would also rule out any need for a rights issue.

While reducing Standard's balance sheet, the disposal would boost the group's hard-pressed capital ratios which

sank to a level well below other clearing banks after a £400 million provision for bad debts in August. Standard's equity to asset ratio would rise from 3 per cent to around 4.8 per cent.

Union has been one of the group's strongest performing assets in recent years, but higher bad debt provisions of £28 million held back the US bank's profit contribution at the interim stage this year.

There were also suggestions from the Far East yesterday that Standard was planning to sell its headquarters building in Singapore, built four years ago, for \$100 million.

Some City analysts argued that the suggested disposals were the start of a move by Standard's largest shareholders, Mr Robert Holmes & Court and Sir YK Pao, to push up the group's share price. By boosting the group's capital through selling highly-rated subsidiaries, they were hoping for a stock market rerating of Standard, the analysts argued. Mr Holmes & Court and Sir YK Pao each hold almost 15 per cent of Standard.

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STOCK MARKET

Storehouse falls as hopes of Mountleigh bid fade

**By Michael Clark
and Geoffrey Foster**

We should hear news shortly that Mr Tony Clegg's Mountleigh Group has decided to abort its proposed bid for Storehouse, the British Home Stores, Habitat, Mothercare and Richard shops group headed by Sir Terence Conran.

That was the whisper in late trading yesterday as Storehouse fell by 18p to 352p with 7.8 million shares changing hands and hopes of the long-awaited bid started to fade. There was talk that a line of 1.9 million shares had gone through the market in late trading.

Profits drop at Matthews

Bernard Matthews, the Norfolk turkey producer, reported pretax profits 13 per cent lower at \$6.1 million in the six months to July 12. Sales were nearly 4 per cent higher at \$65.9 million. The company said full-year profits were expected to be at similar levels to the £15.1 million made in 1986. The interim dividend was unchanged at 0.625p.

But he has always insisted that Mountleigh could lay its

hands on the expected asking price of about £1.8 billion that would be needed to launch its audacious bid for the much bigger Storehouse. However, the market would be reluctant to accept Mountleigh shares at present.

Mr Clegg first announced that he was considering making a bid for Storehouse a month ago after intense pressure was exerted by the Take-over Panel which had become alarmed by the flurry of speculation which had been driving the Storehouse share price sharply higher.



But little information has emerged from either camp since then, although Mr Clegg has promised to make an announcement on the situation some time this week. Mountleigh ended the day 9p higher at 769p with the market

The rest of the equity market spent a lack-lustre day, apparently unimpressed with the latest stream of trading

statements from companies such as Fisons, down 20p at 334p. Next, 3p up at 341p. Croda, 9p lower at 264p and Consolidated Gold Fields, unchanged at 15.10p. Attempts at a rally later in the day quickly ran out of steam after Wall Street lost 32 points in early trading.

The FT 30-Share index

ALPHA STOCKS

[illegible]

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Sep 17	85.85	85.85	85.85	85.85	21
Oct 17	85.54	85.55	85.50	85.54	212
Nov 17	85.55	85.55	85.55	85.55	471
Dec 17	85.96	85.96	85.94	85.96	21
Jan 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Feb 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Mar 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Apr 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
May 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jun 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jul 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Aug 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Sep 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Oct 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Nov 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Dec 88	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jan 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Feb 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Mar 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Apr 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
May 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jun 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jul 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Aug 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Sep 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Oct 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Nov 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Dec 89	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jan 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Feb 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Mar 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Apr 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
May 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jun 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jul 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Aug 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Sep 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Oct 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Nov 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Dec 90	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jan 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Feb 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Mar 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Apr 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
May 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jun 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jul 91	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
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Mar 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Apr 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
May 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
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Jul 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Aug 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Sep 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Oct 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Nov 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Dec 92	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Jan 93	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1
Feb 93	85.95	85.95	85.95	85.94	1

9 per cent Treasury Loan, 2008
FOR AUCTION ON A BID PRICE BASIS

THIS FORM MAY BE USED
APPLICATION FORM

This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (A), Watling Street, London, EC4M 3AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER 1987, or at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER 1987.

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

COMPLETE SECTIONS A AND D TOGETHER WITH EITHER B OR C.

SECTION A	Nominal amount of the above-mentioned Loan applied for, being a MINIMUM OF £1,000 and in a multiple as follows:—		BOX 1 NOMINAL AMOUNT FOR THE LOAN
	Amount of the Loan applied for	Multiple	

£1,000-£10,000	£1,000	£ APPLICABLE APPLIED FOR
£10,000-£50,000	£5,000	
£50,000 or greater	£25,000	

SECTION **FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS ONLY**

B (i.e. for allotment to be made at the price bid) Price bid per £100 nominal of the Loan, being a multiple of £100 —

£ : p

Amount of deposit enclosed, being equal to the PRICE
 BID (shown in Box 2) LESS £40.00 for every £100 NOMINAL

of the Loan applied for (shown in Box 1 in Section A):—

C FOR NON-COMPETITIVE BIDS ONLY
(i.e. for allotment to be made at the non-competitive allotment price as defined in the prospectus)

Amount of deposit enclosed, being £60.00a, for every £100 NOMINAL of the Loan applied for (shown in Box 1 in Section A):—

I/We warrant that to my/our knowledge this is the only non-competitive application made for my/our benefit (or for the benefit of the persons on whose behalf I am (we are appearing))

SECTION 1. I/We hereby engage to pay the balance of the purchase money when it becomes due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this application as provided by the said

I/We request that any letter of allotment in respect of the amount of the Loan allotted

to me/us be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below.

September 1987

SIGNATURE _____
of, or on behalf of, applicant _____

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

MR/MRS MISS	FORENAMES IN FULL	SURNAME

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS

POST-TOWN	COUNTY	POSTCODE
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(b) A separate cheque must accompany each application. Cheques should be made payable to "Bank of England" and crossed "New Issues", in respect of bids for more than £100,000 nominal of the Loan, cheques must be drawn on a branch or office, situated in the Town of London, of a substantial member of C&A&S, and Town Clearing Company Limited. In respect of bids for £100,000 nominal or less, cheques may be drawn on any branch or office of a substantial member of C&A&S.

(b) The procedure for any return, or further deposit payable, is set out in the prospectus.

1. NAME OF APPLICANT AND FIRM: _____

Midi chief predicts an insurance merger boom

By Michael Tate

A huge shake-up of the European insurance industry is forecast by M Pascal Vienot, chief financial officer of Compagnie du Midi, the French group bidding £403 million for Britain's Equity & Law.

M Vienot — in London to whip up support for his offer, which was forced into the open prematurely by the bid from Brierley Investments (BIL) of the New Zealand entrepreneur Mr Ron Brierley — believes Europe's insurance companies will have to merge to compete when European insurance trade barriers come down in 1990.

"There are going to be few survivors," he predicted yesterday.

Compagnie du Midi, France's fifth-largest quoted company, has an unparalleled reputation for foresight, evidenced by its success in keeping its banking offshoot out of President Mitterrand's nationalization programme.

M Vienot and his board are convinced that the changes taking place in the European insurance industry, with the



Whipping up support: Pascal Vienot, who is bidding £403 million for a British flagship

advances made in social security within EEC countries, will create "fantastic openings" and growth opportunities for the company. "But size will be important," he says.

Hence the interest in Equity & Law, which he is wooing with promises of making it the French group's life assurance flagship. "We simply think that the UK life assurance industry is the most sophis-

ticated in the world," says M Vienot.

So far there has been no response from Mr Brierley's BIL to the French bid. Mr Brierley, sitting on a 29.9 per cent stake in E & L, is in Sydney, aware that he is already sitting on a £28.5 million profit on his holding, and contemplating his next move.

It is hard to see him over-bidding. At 400p, Compagnie

du Midi's offer values E & L at an astonishing 49 times earnings, compared with the multiple of 33 at which TSB took out Target recently.

He may judge that the French will go a few pence higher to complete the deal that they have been angling for since last spring, but it would be risky. M Vienot says E & L is not the only company he has spoken to, although clearly it is the best fit.

Water chiefs defiant on sale

By Edward Townsend

Severn-Trent, the second largest water authority in England and Wales, yesterday nailed its colours to the government mast and backed the establishment of a National Rivers Authority as part of a pre-privatization break-up of the water industry.

On the eve of the meeting of the Water Authorities Association to approve a hostile reply to the privatization plans of Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Severn-Trent confirmed itself as the only supporter of the Government among the 10 water authorities.

The sale, expected in 1989-90, is being opposed in its present form by the authorities, led by Mr Roy Watts, the chairman of Thames Water. They believe that stripping the boards of some existing powers would jeopardize flotation.

But Mr John Bellak, the chairman of Severn-Trent, said yesterday in his authority's formal response to Mr Ridley's proposals that the NRA would protect public and environmental interests. It would retain integrated policy-making for river catchments while freeing the utility operations from political and bureaucratic interference.

Severn-Trent also proposes there should be a director general to protect consumers.

The views of Mr Bellak and his colleagues which, he said, were fully supported by Severn-Trent's fisheries, advisory, and regional and drainage committees as well as its regional directors, are in direct conflict with the rest of the industry.

Mr Bellak said: "We believe that our constructive response to the Government's consultative paper offers a practical and workable solution to the management of water services in the best interests of the customers, the environment, the industry and those who work within it."

"We have satisfied ourselves that the best way of serving our customers and achieving commercial success is through the separation of the utility service from the machinery for safeguarding environmental interests."

Mr Bellak said at a press conference yesterday that complaints from other water authorities of lack of consultation by the government in the last 18 months was reminiscent of "a degree of sensitivity more appropriate of touchy schoolgirls."

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Back to drawing board for the Telecom sale

If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had it in mind to ease his budgetary burden in the next financial year by a spring sale of the state-owned 49.8 per cent of British Telecom, he must now return to the drawing board. Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of BT's watchdog body, OfTel, is minded to ask for a Monopolies Commission investigation into future pricing policy: if he does so an early sale is impossible. It raises too many uncertainties about the medium-term trend of profits and the competitive environment in which BT is operating. Until guidelines for the next three or five years are laid down, professional investors cannot be expected to consider seriously further commitment to BT shares, which for some time have been seriously underperforming the rest of the stock market.

The growing band of private investors, who would be key targets in a further sale, are probably not aware of the complexities of the price-fixing formula which would form the core of the commission's deliberations. But they cannot fail to have been aware of the barrage of criticism over charging and quality of service which has been directed at BT. They, too, will need a good deal more time to be assured that the company's new senior management is getting to grips with its problems. In some areas of operation this will entail a corporate pulling-up of socks by BT. As Professor Carsberg has himself pointed

out, there has been some disappointment since BT was privatized and in matters such as call boxes, the company had done a pretty poor job. The subjects of strongest criticism are not generally those which are important in terms of investor returns. In terms of investor image, they are proving crucial.

A delay in the secondary sale of government shares would give a useful breathing space to BT's management, which inherited a number of of millstones from the restrictive days of Whitehall interference. Charges were a perennial political football and political pressures left, at the time of privatization, a legacy of distortion by which business customers subsidized the private telephone user. This and other distortions were made apparent by the introduction of a competitor, Mercury, for the prized business traffic.

BT also inherited chronic underinvestment, which is being put to rights. Equipment delays have dogged the introduction of digital exchanges. To date, the company has rationalized away some 30,000 workers. But the move towards greater efficiency by introducing modern capital equipment was always bound to be a lengthy process. Given a fair wind, BT should be able to offer proof positive of improvement on many fronts in the next year. This should help the shares climb back towards an average market rating and offer the prospect of an attractive long-term investment again.

Lessons of Lawsonomics

Inviting Nigel Lawson to give the opening address at a commemorative conference on Keynes was either an inspired idea or a naughty ploy to make the great economist revolve in his grave. In reality, the conference, organized by Walter Eltis, the National Economic Development Office's economics director — clearly not one to bear a grudge when one recalls the Chancellor's recent decision to slash Nedo's budget — is a curious animal. It is intended to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Keynes's *General Theory*, which was published 51 years ago, in 1936. Apart from Mr Lawson's remarks, the rest of the conference, which goes on until early next week, is private.

To catch the flavour of the proceedings, we have only the Chancellor's views. These boil down to Keynes was not such a bad chap, but he was very unsound on inflation. Keynesian economics has been supplanted by Lawsonomics. As its creator described it yesterday: "That is to say, instead of seeking to use macro-economic policy to promote growth and micro-economic policy to suppress inflation — or the symptoms of inflation — we must direct macro-economic policy to

the suppression of inflation and rely on micro-economic (or supply side) policy to provide the conditions conducive to improved economic performance in terms of growth and employment."

Lawsonomics emerged more recently than Keynesian economics — in the Chancellor's Mais lecture at City University three years ago, in fact. But, according to Mr Lawson yesterday, the experience of the past eight years has vindicated this approach.

Now — and this is the interesting bit — the Chancellor cited two pieces of evidence on the use of macro-economic policy to defeat inflation. The first was the halving of the budget deficit, even without privatization. The second was the high level of real interest rates. No mention here of the money supply or the exchange rate, simply the level of real interest rates. It could be, of course, that even Mr Lawson did not have the temerity to cite his record on monetary control in front of an audience of economists. But it could also be that the Chancellor was signalling what the financial markets may already have discerned: successful Lawsonomics requires permanently high interest rates.

Half-time increase for Lasmio

By David Young

Energy Correspondent
Lasmio, the independent oil company at the centre of merger speculation for two years, yesterday announced profits higher than City expectations and an interim dividend of 2.5p a share. Last year it paid no interim dividend.

The company announced half-year after-tax profits of £10.2 million compared with £6.5 million for the same period last year, but £8.4 million of its income is attributable to the dividend payments it receives from its holding in Enterprise.

Although Lasmio's profit rose, its turnover was down to £74.4 million this year compared with £87.8 million last year. Its spending on exploration was £27 million compared with £41 million last year.

Exploration activity by the company in the North Sea has dropped by almost half compared with last year, although 31 exploration, and 25 development wells, have been drilled this year with a success ratio of 68 per cent.

Saatchi's US purchase

By Our City Staff

Saatchi & Saatchi, frustrated in its approach for Midland Bank, is buying Peterson, a leading US litigation consultancy partnership. The acquisition will cost an initial \$42 million (£25.5 million), with further payments totalling up to \$142.5 million over the next three years.

Coupled with the recent purchase of Litigation Sciences, the deal will give Saatchi a leading position in litigation support, which is expected to be a \$1.4 billion market by 1990.

Litigation support is designed to assist in resolving or avoiding business disputes. Through its 27 partners and 350 consultants, Peterson provides specialist services which enable clients to analyse costs, facts and revenues, and prepare and review claims and counter-claims.

These services are complementary to those of Litigation Sciences, which helps lawyers to develop litigation strategies and tactics by analysing the likely interpretation of facts by jurors, judges, arbitrators and commissions.

Peterson fits with Saatchi's declared strategy on acquiring top firms in each of the nine service lines of the management consulting professions. Its partners will enter into long-term service contracts on completion.

Peterson, formed in 1980, last year made profits of \$12.2 million on a turnover of \$47.9 million, compared with \$3.5 million on \$27.4 million in 1985. It is not expected to repeat that kind of growth rate this year, but growth prospects are excellent, says Saatchi.

Croda International makes record £14.2m at half time

By Carol Ferguson

Croda International, the specialty chemicals group, reported record interim results yesterday. Pretax profits jumped more than 20 per cent to £14.2 million and earnings per share were up by 25 per cent to 7.34p fully diluted.

The dividend was increased by 0.4p to 3.4p net.

Three of the five divisions had significantly improved profits in the first half. Specialty chemicals did especially well, accounting for 40 per

cent of profits and 65 per cent of turnover.

Only food failed to come up to expectations. Profits fell from £1.4 million to just under £957,000 due to difficulties with subsidized honey in the US. This is bought by the government and used to be handed out under welfare schemes or given away to prisoners, for example.

This year, the US government has started to sell the honey cheaply into the mar-

ket, making life difficult for honey importers like Croda. Mr Derek Mather, Croda's vice-chairman and chief financial officer, said that as a result, "Croda is withdrawing from honey importing until after the second quarter of 1988."

Cosmetics and toiletries made a small loss in the first half, but its profits are heavily dependent on the Christmas trade, and Mr Mather said that the season had opened strongly.

Scottish Heritable up by 58% in first half

By Our City Staff

Scottish Heritable Trust increased profits by 58 per cent to £3.2 million in the first half of 1987 and raised earnings from 5.2p to 6.2p a share. The interim dividend is lifted from 1.6p to 2p.

York-based SHT's interests include floorcovering, housebuilding and quarrying — all of which improved profits in the first six months

— and fireworks and textiles, which traditionally do better in the second half.

The property division will also turn in better results later in the year as redevelopments begin to contribute.

The group's most exciting venture this year has been its expansion in US housebuilding since June.

Australia near budget balance after 17 years

From Richard Battley, Sydney

A virtually balanced Australian budget, the first in 17 years, was introduced last night by Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer. The deficit is a mere Aus\$27 million (£11.99million), only 1 per cent of the previous year's deficit.

Expenditure is Aus\$78.1 billion, a nominal 4 per cent increase but a reduction in real

terms of 2.4 per cent. It represents 27 per cent of gross domestic product.

The immediate reaction was a 1 per cent cut in prime rate to 14.25 per cent by ANZ Bank, one of the country's Big Four, in response to a "lower interest rate environment."

The budget contained only one surprise: a commitment to review company taxation.

Moment of truth

Talk about timing. Oil analysts Roger Aylard and Peter Nicol could not have chosen a more embarrassing moment to announce their departure from Smith New Court, part owned by merchant bank N M Rothschild, adviser to next month's BP flotation. The pair, both ex-oil industry — with Aylard ex-Enterprise Oil and Nicol ex-BNOC — have, I hear, been sent to sit in the gardens for a month before joining Chase Manhattan Securities. At Chase, they will work as part of an oil team which already comprises Richard Anoushian and Mary Corran. Mrs Corran, whose husband Tom covers the brewery sector for James Capel, retired from the Square Mile pre-Big Bang to set up a bookshop selling second-hand detective stories, but was dragged back in March to help out at Chase after the defection of most of its old oil team to Pru Bache. "I'm still hoping to open my shop but I could be in the City for a while yet," she says.

Fruit nuts

Just as Geest, the banana importer, has been largely responsible for ensuring that our local supermarkets are nowadays well stocked with those very un-British looking green Kiwi fruits, the company is now about to get its all hooked on babaco, a fruit which looks — if you can imagine it — like a cross between a large grapefruit and a marrow, can be eaten either cooked or raw and tastes like a

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A little dig at Wimpey

When Andrew Longhurst, managing director of the go-ahead Cheltenham & Gloucester building society, came to turn the first sod for the company's new 200,000 sq ft head office just outside Gloucester — the move from its present Cheltenham office is scheduled for mid-1989 — his fascination with things technological prompted him to use

a German JCB-style earth-moving machine instead of the traditional silver spade. And his ensuing light-hearted chat with main contractor Wimpey prompted a spate of joke-cracking, with the men from Wimpey jesting that the name of the construction company is really a secret acronym for... We Import More Paddles Every Year.

of the fruit also signifies a major diversification for Channel Island farmers — who in the past were known almost solely for their more familiar-looking tomatoes.

Hann's up

Former Grattan chairman John Hann, who bowed out discreetly from the Next board yesterday after a year as a non-executive director, could be a man worth watching. After a life-long career with Boots, where he became managing director of the pharmaceutical-to-babywear group with responsibility for its retail division, he quit three years ago to help David Jones transform the fortunes of mail order group Grattan. Never a man to play second fiddle for long, he has, I hear, been amassing a number of more minor boardroom appointments. But, still only a sprightly 60-year-old, he has time yet for another major post. Stay tuned...

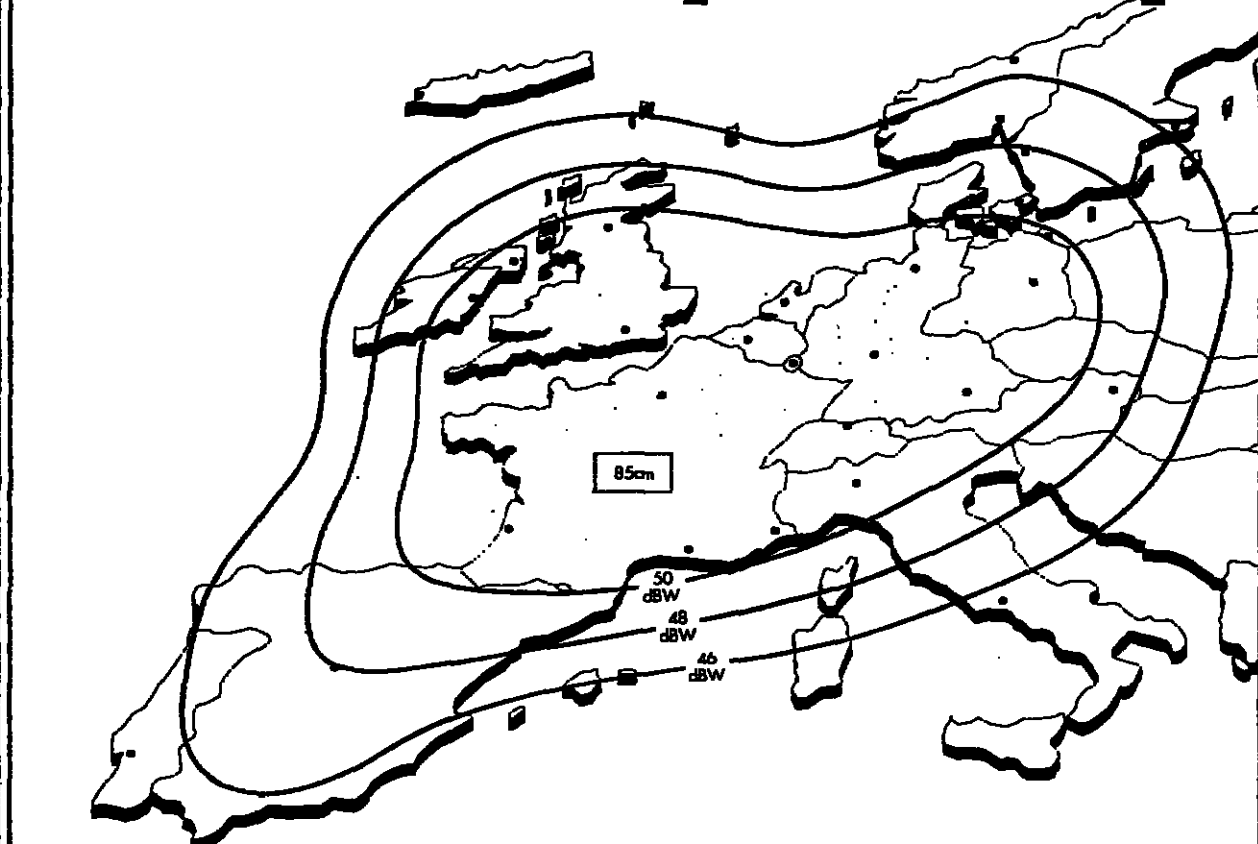
Inside line on BT

Poor old British Telecom really is getting it in the neck from all angles at the moment. Even a competition by that kind-hearted journal *New Scientist* for its readers to "Say something nice about BT" with the promise of a £10 prize for the best anecdote, seems to have fallen on stony ground. The only response so far has apparently been one backhanded compliment. The journal's study of BT has, however, unearthed one interesting snippet, for anyone who has ever attempted to send computer messages via a telephone across the Atlantic. Transatlantic telephone calls apparently have a 50 per cent chance of going by satellite rather than cable and if they do, speech is clipped and its relay delayed. Irritating enough if you are attempting to carry out a conversation but death to computers or fax machines trying to communicate. But not any more... if you dial either 83 or 84 between the country and area codes, it signifies the exchange that the call must go by cable. Although this little-known instruction is intended only for business links, it apparently works equally well for personal calls.

● The acronyms roll on and on. The latest one is from Timothy Boles, a Lloyd's insurance underwriter, which he says aptly describes several men in his office: "discount" — dual income, some children, one under-way, nanny too.

Carol Leonard

One Giant Step for Europe



ASTRA — Europe's new privately operated 16-channel television satellite will be placed in orbit next year. Its huge geographical 'footprint' is concentrated over the most densely populated areas of Europe, bringing increased choice of high quality programming to millions of viewers.

But there's more to ASTRA's footprint than meets the eye.

90% of the consumer purchasing power of Western Europe is covered by the 50 dBW contour, within which ASTRA's powerful signals can be received on an inexpensive 85cm dish.

The potential market is enormous. Research shows that there are 50 million homes in Europe with the purchasing power to buy individual equipment. Over 40% of Europe's TV homes could

have satellite TV by 1996 giving programmers the opportunity to amortise costs over a wider market, not restricted to the 10% of households currently connected to cable systems.

ASTRA. Next year. More than a satellite. Reaching the highest consumer purchasing power in Western Europe



EUROPE'S 16 CHANNEL TELEVISION SATELLITE

Five to leave Wrightson as brokers' profits see-saw

By Alison Eadie

The merger of Willis Faber and Stewart Wrightson, the insurance brokers, has caused the resignation of four Wrightson directors and its company secretary.

The resignations include that of Mr Alan Collis, who was to have joined the combined board. The others leaving are Mr George Boden, head of UK retail activities; Mr Jeremy Wagener, finance director; Mr Tony Keys, development director; and Mr John Sicely, company secretary.

Mr David Palmer, chairman of the merged group, said no further resignations were expected. Those who were leaving simply saw better opportunities elsewhere. All five will receive compensation in line with their contracts. Mr Boden and Mr Keys will continue to act as consultants to the new group in 1988.

Mr David Rowland, former chairman of Stewart Wrightson and now deputy chairman of the new group, said the board of Wrightson had been united in support of the merger.

There will be some staff redundancies, to be announced shortly, but there are also more than 100 vacancies



David Palmer (left) and David Rowland: group chairman and deputy chairman after Willis Faber-Wrightson merger

to be filled. Mr Rowland said every effort would be made to redeploy staff to fill vacancies.

The two companies also announced their interim results yesterday. Willis Faber showed pretax profits 5 per cent lower at £45.5 million, but Wrightson registered an 8 per cent increase to £13.2 million.

Excluding the results of the new US surplus lines subsidiary, McAlister, and the effect of adverse currency movements, brokerage at Willis grew by 12 per cent and expenses by 7 per cent.

Mr Palmer said the sharp

increase in rates that occurred in 1984, 1985 and 1986 had peaked and in several areas rates were on their way down. The American property insurance market and aviation insurance were particularly soft, with aviation rates coming down 30 per cent or more.

"Our market is like a commodity. Logic does not come into it. It is dominated by supply and demand," Mr Palmer said.

He noted that marine activity was substantially lower, but that activity had returned to the reinsurance market.

Growth areas at Willis in-

cluded the UK retail side and specialist markets such as political risk and professional indemnity.

Stewart Wrightson's worldwide brokerage rose by almost 9 per cent, after adjusting for currency and acquisitions. The underlying growth in expenses was just under 10 per cent.

Income from the North American subsidiaries was up marginally, but after stripping out two acquisitions made at the turn of the year, income was significantly lower. Corporate risks, aviation insurance and reinsurance did well and there was a substantial increase in North American business handled in London.

Nicholson Stewart Wrightson, the aviation reinsurance subsidiary that is not joining the merged group, made first half profits of £1.6 million against £1.9 million for all last year.

On the subject of the merger, Mr Palmer said economies had been identified in several areas. Wrightson's systems for UK branches and its sophisticated marketing unit would save millions that Willis had expected to have to spend. Wrightson would also save by using Willis's international system.

Final NEB companies are sold

By David Young

The last two investments from the original portfolio of the former National Enterprise Board, have now been sold.

The disposal of the portfolio has been handled by Grosvenor Venture Managers which was given eight NEB investments to privatize in 1982.

The two companies sold off are Thandar, a former Sinclair electronics company, which is the subject of a capital restructuring organized by its management and by Phillips and Drew Development Capital, and Sonicaid, makers of ultra-sonic medical diagnostic equipment which was sold to Oxford Instruments.

The Thandar investment has realized £710,000 against a cost of £280,000. The Sonicaid investment was originally valued at £250,000 and further investment took the total to £1 million. The sale of Sonicaid has produced an overall gain of £600,000.

Mr David Beattie, the chairman and managing director of Grosvenor Venture Managers, said: "Of the eight investments taken over in 1982, one was in good shape, three needed a lot of work done and two were at death's door. We lost money - less than £50,000 - on only one company."

Rise in house prices 'will not fuel inflation'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Rising house prices do not signal a general acceleration in inflation, a bank report published today says.

Credit Suisse First Boston says in the report, *UK House Prices: Not an Inflation Signal*, that there have been a number of special factors in the rise in house prices since 1982.

The increase has accelerated in the past two years and is now running at about 15 per cent in London and the South-east, although there have been tentative signs of a flattening-out in recent weeks.

These indicators of house price increases do not make allowance for the improvement in the quality of the housing stock, the report says. It calculates such improvement effects as running at about 3.5 per cent a year.

Credit Suisse says that apart from strong growth in real incomes, the ending of mortgage rationing has been the most important single factor in the rise in house prices.

Until the early 1980s, controls on bank and building society lending and the

societies' policy of keeping mortgage rates low, ensured that mortgages were in short supply and loans rationed.

"The removal of these controls... has revolutionized the mortgage markets, effectively ending the era of rationing and leading to intense competition between building societies and the banks," the report says. "This has released the frustrated demand for mortgages and housing."

In London and the South-east, such effects had been amplified by the sharp rise in City salaries, with improved communications spreading house price increases over a wide area.

The report's conclusion is that the sharp rise in house prices can be largely explained away by these special factors and, therefore, is not a harbinger of general inflation.

This contrasts sharply with the views of Mr Tim Congdon and Mr Peter Warburton of Shearson Lehman, the securities firm, who see sharply rising house prices leading to double-figure inflation within two years.

Takeover tidy-up at Evered

By Michael Tate

Evered, the industrial conglomerate, is tidying up many of the loose ends relating to its £107 million takeover of London & Northern Group earlier this year with a series of acquisitions and disposals.

It is paying \$4.4 million (£2.5 million) for the remaining 8.7 per cent of London & Northern. The owner of Rockville Crushed Stone and a further \$1.25 million if planning permission is obtained for Boyd's quarry. It is also paying £400,000 for the minority 3.8 per cent holding in Eskit Quarries.

Mr Raschid Abdullah, Evered's chairman, says the purchases consolidate the group's position in the quarry products business.

At the same time Evered is selling its loss-making steel fabricator, Almond Fabrications, to Plate Flatteners (Scotland) and selling its 85 per cent stake in the McMillan Offshore (Scotland) to its directors.

L&N's 50 per cent interest in PCL Packaging (UK) will go to its partner, PCL Industries of Canada, the business and assets of Welders & Compressors have been sold, and the unprofitable Aberdeen Builders Merchants has been closed.

Iceland Foods jumps 46% at half time

Iceland Foods Holdings, the frozen food retailer, made pretax profits in the half-year to July 4 of £3.2 million - an increase of 46 per cent - on sales 39 per cent ahead at £69.3 million.

Enlarged facilities at Deeside in Clwyd would cope with the most ambitious store expansion plans, the company said. Iceland raised £14 million via a rights issue earlier this year and spent £2.5 million on completing the coldstore at Deeside.

In the first half, Iceland opened 10 new stores. A further four have been opened in the present half and seven more will be opened by the end of the year.

The company is confident that this year will be another record year in both sales and profits. The interim dividend is raised from 1.25p to 1.45p.

In brief

● **BRACE BROTHERS:** Interim dividend 0.8p for the six months to June 30. With figures in £000: Turnover 41,118 (33,665) Pretax profit 2,851 (2,246). Earnings per share 4.21p (3.95p).

● **ELSWICK:** Six months to

July 31. With figures in £000: Sales 11,700 (14,297). Pretax profit 403 (loss 352). Earnings per share 0.47p (loss 1.03p).

● **FINE ART DEVELOPMENTS:** The company is paying £2.6 million for Geest's garden products division, the market leader in direct mail sales of horticultural produce. The Hortico, Lowland and Spalding bulb catalogues will join the company through its Scotland subsidiary, to provide horticultural sales of more than £10 million and giving the company nearly half of the mail order market it entered only six months ago.

● **LODGE CARE:** Interim dividend 0.5p for six months to June 30. With figures in £000: Turnover 2,127 (1,597) Pretax profit 348 (242). Earnings per share 3.1p (2.6p). The board is confident that the full year's results will show a further improvement on last year's record.

● **KLEARFOLD:** Interim dividend 1.7 cents (1.6 cents) for the six months to June 30. With figures in \$000: Turnover 10,794 (\$8.5 million), against \$8,208. Pretax profits \$804 (\$707). Earnings per share 6 cents (2.9 cents).

● **ACCORD PUBLICATIONS:** Interim dividend 0.8p (nil) for the six months ended

June 30. With figures in £000: Turnover 3,476 (2,496). Pretax profit on ordinary activities 73 (43). Earnings per share, based on weighted average, 0.7p (0.5p).

● **JOHN MOWLEM:** The company is considering the sale of its 76 per cent interest in Buehler International after changing the composition of its core businesses primarily as a result of two large acquisitions in 1986.

● **CHARLES BAYNES:** Six months to March 31. With figures in £000: Turnover 3,957 (7,145). Pretax loss 893 (profit 240). Extraordinary debit nil (913). Loss per share 4.61p (earnings 0.80p).

● **SHEAFBANK PROPERTY TRUST:** Dividend unchanged at 0.5p for the year to March 31. With figures in £000: Gross rental income 791 (685). Pretax profit 168 (158).

● **S DANIELS:** Interim dividend 1.25p (0.5p) for six months to June 30. With figures in £000: Turnover 19,883 (17,059). Pretax profit 466 (361). Earnings per share 4.0p (3.5p).

● **HIGHLANDS & LOWLAND:** The board has agreed with Mr Phang Fook Sang that they will transfer their holdings of 9 million shares in Jelita Bumi, being 100 per cent of the equity, to H&L for \$54.85 million

(£1.16 million) in cash. The acquisition is subject to the approval of the Foreign Investment Committee.

● **ABELSCOT GROUP:** Interim dividend 1p for the six months to June 30. (comparisons restated). With figures in £000: Turnover 2,317 (1,979). Pretax profit 510 (281). Earnings per share, fully diluted, 10.9p (7.1p).

● **READYMIX GROUP:** Half-year to June 30. No dividend. With figures in £000: Pretax profit 156 (£141,000), against 55. Turnover 7,888 (7,726). Earnings per share 41p (14p).

● **EMAP:** The company has bought a majority stake in Citizen Group Newspapers, publisher of the *Milton Keynes Citizen* and the *Luton and Dunstable Citizen*. The newspapers have a combined weekly circulation of 180,000 copies. The consideration of £2.02 million will be met half in cash and half by the issue of new ordinary shares. The dividend will be a minimum shareholding (25 per cent) for up to three years, but EMAP will acquire this within that period for a payment based on performance.

● **WESTERN MOTOR HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 30. (comparisons restated). With figures in £000: Turnover 5,388 (5,099). Pretax profit 412 (407). Extraordinary debit 134 (nil). Earnings per share 11.6p (13.5p).

● **EUROPEAN FERRIES GROUP:** No interim dividend for the six months to June 30. With figures in £000:

HALL ENGINEERING (HOLDINGS) PLC

1987 INTERIM RESULTS £000	1986/87	1985/86	1984/85
TURNOVER	66,485	62,727	128,565
PROFIT BEFORE EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	3,582	2,850	6,086
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	5,132	2,423	5,335
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	3,624	1,573	3,484
EARNINGS PER SHARE	25.17p	10.79p	24.00p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	4.6p	4.03p	10.05p

TRADING CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE CURRENT YEAR WERE NOTICEABLY BETTER THAN DURING 1986 WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR OVERSEAS INTERESTS ALSO SHOWING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS... I AM THEREFORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE GROUP FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE."

R.N.C. HALL CHAIRMAN

A copy of the full announcement, which is being sent to all shareholders, is available from the Secretary, Hall Engineering (Holdings) PLC, Harlescott Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 3AS. Telephone: (0743) 235541.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings September 1 September 18 Last Dealings December 31 December 14
Call options were taken out on: 15/07/87: Uranium, Alpha Holdings, Foster, ICA, Alpine, Abroad, Greenwell Res, Black Leisure, Unga, Blue Res, Property Trust, Applied Polysilicon, Wharfedale, Wm. Morris, Norfolk Coast, Abaco, Pats & Cals, TV-am, Barrat Devs, Owners Abroad, Greenwell Res.

MONEY MARKETS AND		
Base Rates %		
Clearing Banks 10		
Finance House 9½		
Treasury Bills (Discount %)		
Buying	Selling	
2 month 9 1/4	2 month	9½
3 month 9 1/4	3 month	9½
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)		
1 month 9½-9 1/4	3 month	9½-9 1/4
3 month 9 1/4-9 1/2	6 month	9½-9 1/2
Trade Bills (Discount %)		
1 month 10½	2 month	10 1/4

Midland names new chiefs

director.

Mr. Stephen Rubin for the appellants; Miss Sarah Asplin for the respondent.

In April 1986 the appellants applied for a valuation of the

The appellants argued that it

Gammer, Wokingham; Travers
Smith & Brithwaite.

Mr Stephen Rubin for the appellants; Miss Sarah Asplin for the respondent.

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[illegible]

Small losses

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ae) denotes Alpha Stock. (VOLUMES PAGE 22.)

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

[illegible][illegible]

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ● Pre-merger figures ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex scrip or share split ● Tax-free ... No significant data.

MEDIA & MARKETING

Why channels need annals

OPINION

James Bredin

In a hundred years' time social historians, students of communications and researchers will want to make use of television archives in the same way as, for centuries, they have been using the world's great libraries. We owe it to our descendants not to neglect, ignore or squander the television output they will expect us to have preserved.

That will require a co-ordinated effort to set up a national television archive of programmes transmitted by the present organizations and those of the future.

We are, as yet, nowhere near a national television archive. We have television libraries, which are more or less complete, in which we store programmes that we want to transmit again, sell, or cannibalize in order to make, for example, retrospective or commemorative programmes.

A television archive should be a collection of as many of the programmes we have made as possible, documented, catalogued and indexed by computer and carefully preserved in properly controlled conditions. It would be separate from and additional to a library of television programmes.

Neither the BBC nor ITV has such an archive. The BBC has, until recently, maintained that its charter restricted its use of licence money to the making of programmes and did not allow for the preservation of programmes for the benefit of posterity.

ITV companies, which have no guarantee of continued life beyond their current contracts, have not felt it incumbent on them to give priority to the needs of future generations of scholars or students. The two national broadcasting organizations have not, however, behaved with a total lack of responsibility to the future.

The BBC has a great deal of valuable archive material,

well preserved, catalogued and indexed, within its videotape and film libraries and its charter has recently been amended (at the BBC's suggestion) so that one of its objects now is "to maintain libraries and archives... and to make available to the public such libraries and archives with or without charge."

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, in an admirable assumption of public responsibility, has made it a condition of ITV companies' contracts that they preserve their programmes in an archive and provide access to them. Moreover, since 1969, ITV has given more than £1 million to the British Film Institute to pay for the acquisition of television programmes that the BFI has wanted to add to its National Film Archive.

What is needed now is that the two broadcasting organizations should help the BFI to add a really comprehensive national television archive to its existing collection. Hitherto, the BFI has had to select programmes from the vast national television output and it has never been able to afford to acquire anything like as many programmes as it would like.

Recently, technological advances and very generous financial help from the private sector have made it possible for the BFI to advance significantly towards the recording of almost the whole programme output of both BBC and ITV.

While the broadcasters should continue to maintain and operate their film and video libraries for their own purposes, the contents of their libraries should also be made available for copying to form the basis of a national television archive fit to be preserved for the future.

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James Bredin, a former programme controller and producer, is a specialist in television archives.

Crossroads by the Cam

As TV moguls gather, David Housham reports on the sex, privatization and other critical issues on their minds

The Royal Television Society's biennial convention in Cambridge is billed as the most important and influential of the many talking shops with which the industry likes to amuse itself.

This year the convention, which starts tomorrow and runs until the weekend, is taking place at the climax of great public concern about broadcasting matters.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd will doubtless be talking about reducing the amount of sex and violence on

the small screen in his speech on Friday morning. He is expected to talk in greater detail about the powers of the new watchdog body which the government, in fulfilment of an election manifesto pledge, intends to set up and to which viewers may complain.

More details about the bringing of broadcasting under the Obscene Publications Act are anticipated, as well as an update on the government's position of the breaking of ITV's advertising sales monopoly — by privatiz-

ing Channel 4, or at least allowing it to sell its own airtime, or by the introduction of a new commercial channel. However, Hurd's speech may prove an anticlimax. Mrs Thatcher's summit to discuss broadcasting's future, to which many top industry figures have been invited takes

place next Monday — which suggests the absence of a fixed Government perspective. Last month's Edinburgh TV festival proved a sad spectacle as the industry's would-be opinion formers failed to mount a co-ordinated and intelligent response to their critics.

Although nearly every senior television executive in the BBC, the ITV companies and Channel 4 along with the grandees of the IBA will be present at Cambridge, the event is highly unlikely to present a strong affirmation of television's cultural role, standards or future.

The BBC, presumably relieved to be out of the firing line, has been conspicuously silent while ITV has been under so much pressure. The Corporation's new director general, Michael Checkland,

has organised the 1987 RTF convention and it is perhaps typical of his preoccupations that its main theme is the market place in technology and for programmes (especially overseas sales).

There will be sessions about the likely effect on broadcasting by changes in European legislation: the current developments in European television; and a staged session in which British executives will try to sell BBC and ITV drama programmes to buyers from abroad.

Mustard and crests

Surprisingly, calligraphy has suddenly become the mark of quality packaging. "On certain products," says Peter Matthews of Nucleus Design Associates, "you particularly want to evoke a personal feeling. Something that looks as if it's been hand-drawn evokes that much more effectively."

Calligraphers who used to be content with family trees and invitation cards are now finding themselves in demand by the commercial world. Even the Society of Scribes and Illuminators has recognised the new dawn and is putting on an exhibition dedicated to the phenomenon. *Calligraphy in Print*, at Wiggins Teape Paperpoint, Long Acre, London WC2, on October 26, in which products as diverse as paint pots and mustard jars will be exhibited for the fine writing on their labels.

Lilly Lee was commissioned by Nucleus to do the paint range for Marks and Spencers, as well as, among other things, the Cluster Bar, the fad's sweet.

"One of the reasons," she said, "is that people want to go back to something with more character — when each of us makes a line it's different from anyone else's mark."

"There are tens of thousands of typefaces," Matthews says, "when you're seeking something truly original, if it's one-off it's easier to achieve that originality."

Nor is it just fully trained



Unconventional types: labels take on character with hand lettering

Calligraphers used to be content with drawing family trees — now their pens have become hot property

calligraphers who are resorting to hand-lettering: general graphics designers are learning from the likes of Lilly Lee. Nucleus have produced a series of wine labels for Odbbins' new line in German wine just coming on to the shelves, and last week their new logo for the London Sinfonietta was actually given a press launch.

Lee was trained by Donald Jackson, one of the two scribes to the Crown Office at the House of Lords

who prepare royal documents and perhaps the country's leading calligraphist. He designed what was possibly the first calligraphic corporate style, for Cranks restaurants — "what I called the wholemeal image."

He believes the calligraphist is having a more subtle influence. "With photo-lithography and phototypesetting there is greater flexibility. Now we're entering the era of the disposable typeface, and the potential of the calligrapher to create mood lettering is much greater," he said.

"Although calligraphers seem medieval and have this label of being quaint, they're coming up with new things all the time because it's in the nature of their work."

Simon Tait

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Making news — with less of it

Why the 'information station' will be putting more emphasis on quizzes and entertainment

LBC, the London radio station whose slogan used to be "where news comes first", last week unveiled a new programme schedule at a press conference at which the word "news" was scarcely mentioned.

Along with the new programmes, which start next Monday, LBC also has a new slogan — "LBC, the information station" — as part of its attempt to increase its audience from two to three million a week and its annual turnover from £7 million to £10 million, by appealing to younger, higher-spending listeners.

Television personalities like Michael Aspel and Henry Kelly have been brought in to present weekend programmes, while the hour-long lunchtime news has been dropped in favour of a two-hour show presented by Steve Jones. Although Jones's producers both transfer to the new programme from Independent Radio News, the emphasis will be as much on entertainment, quizzes and consumer affairs as on the stories of the day.

Meanwhile, on the other side of London, Capital Radio is reshaping its schedules from Monday week. Capital's problem is rather different. While LBC's share of the London audience has remained remarkably stable at about 10 per cent over the past five years, Capital's has declined sharply from

25 per cent in 1981 to a meagre 14 per cent last year.

Earlier this year a new head of music, Richard Park, was brought in from Glasgow's Radio Clyde and given a free hand to do whatever he thought necessary to stem the haemorrhage of listeners. In the past, Capital has set out to attract an audience of a particular kind — often at the expense of listeners in other categories. Park's approach is different. "I want to see Capital attracting listeners across the board in the way that Radio Clyde does," he says.

Park, like LBC's editorial director Peter Thornton, is looking to a future in which both stations will face competition, perhaps from dozens of rivals each appealing to a carefully-prescribed section of the audience. But for both LBC and Capital the future lies with a mass audience.

For Thornton, the trick to keeping listeners is to make even the news seem "fun" and entertaining. For Park, the solution is to make Capital the general entertainment station to which even tightly-formatted rivals turn to see how it ought to be done. "Broadcasting is a developing field and this company intends to be a brand leader. We'll set a standard here," he says.

Nick Higham

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MEDIA & MARKETING

سكرا من الامل

Star's war in steel city

Free sheets offering blanket coverage are still a growing threat to traditional papers, reports Andrew Lycett

When the Duke and Duchess of York were in Sheffield on Monday, they visited the headquarters of Sheffield Newspapers, publishers of the evening newspaper, *The Star*, celebrating its centenary this year. They may not have realized that the building across the road, the Star Property Superstore, is part of the same group. Indeed, the Superstore, started in August 1986, is an important part of Sheffield Newspapers' strategy to win back readers from the free papers that caused the demise of its sister daily, the *Morning Telegraph*, in February 1986.

The rivalry between Sheffield Newspapers, a United Newspapers subsidiary, and two free newspaper groups in the city mirrors the battle throughout Britain's provinces between publishers of traditional paid-for and upstart free newspapers. It is a blurred struggle, for in the process many traditional publishers have started free sheets as a defensive measure.

Britain's 1,867 provincial papers are fairly evenly split between paid-for and free. Altogether in 1986 they pulled in £1.1 billion worth of advertising, or 21.5 per cent of total



media revenue. But this proportion is falling. And within that declining share, the free is gaining inexorably. In 1970 they had only 1.4 per cent of regional advertising revenue, in 1986 28.5 per cent, worth £314 million.

Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the Newspaper Society, the provincial newspapers' trade association, says that newspapers in the 1970s were "very inefficient businesses — backward-looking and obsessed with industrial relations". To meet costs they raised cover prices and boosted advertising rates. Free newspaper publishers, keeping costs down with new technology and small staffs, offered cheaper advertising rates and steadily built up business.

Successful paid-for publishers have been clawing back ever since.



Beleaguered: Colin McNamee, managing director of Sheffield Newspapers, now selling houses

Faced with a free weekly, the *Sheffield Journal*, published by East Anglia-based Goodhead Press, Sheffield Newspapers started their own *Sheffield Weekly Gazette* in 1982. At that time they were still publishing both the *Morning Telegraph* and *The Star*. The *Telegraph* kept going only because of property

advertising worth £1 million a year — and folded after Sheffield's estate agents revolted against the paper's monopoly position and threatened to take their custom elsewhere.

The following week a new free paper, the *Sheffield and District Property Guide*, was on the streets, backed by advertising from the city's estate agents. It now publishes 35,000 copies a week and claims 95 per cent of the property advertising market.

Colin McNamee, managing director of Sheffield Newspapers, is sceptical about some of these claims. He says the *Star Property Superstore* in Sheffield has sold 600 houses — "more than any other estate agent in the town" — since August 1986. Over the last fortnight *The Star* has been offering free advertising to people selling their

houses through its Superstore. With the nearly 200,000 VFD (Verified Free Distribution) *Gazette* defending its flank, *The Star* itself now claims to be putting on circulation — to around 150,000 copies a day.

McNamee offers his explanation: "If you want to sell your property, you must present it in the most authoritative medium to the maximum number of people." The crucial word is authoritative. He pits *The Star's* 120 journalists against his rivals' mainly syndicated material, which he dismisses as "light-hearted entertainment". Ian Locks, executive director of the Association of Free Newspapers, quotes different figures to argue the effectiveness of free weeklies: they achieve almost three times as much impact per pound spent, he says.

Continued scrapping between paid-for and independent free publishers threatens to undermine plans by the London-based Regional Newspapers Advertising Bureau to reorganize itself on more commercial lines. RNAB represents regional papers to major advertising agencies. Now it wants to admit free sheets to a proposed new electronic data base.

Michael Toulmin, who heads United Newspapers' provincial paper interests, says his group will not contribute, because, as it stands, the data base would not compare like with like, giving the free publishers an unfair advantage. Yet he admits the need to "gain new business for the regional press". Competition tempered by judicious compromise seems the future for both paid-for and free regional titles.

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BYLINES

The world turns deaf

The BBC's External Services newsroom is behind the times, poorly managed and staffed by journalists who are often poorly trained, according to a highly critical report commissioned by External Services' managing director, John Tusa.

The report, *A Newsroom for the Nineties*, paints a gloomy picture of waning prestige, low morale and poor organization compounded by a "worthy" but unimaginative approach to news presentation. It says the Corporation pays too little to attract the right calibre of staff and is critical of the External Services' continuing sense of its own importance.

"We think the world is tuning in to London to hear the only truly unbiased, professional radio news service," the report says. "But the truth is that perhaps only 3 per cent of the population of this planet hear us and then only occasionally."

Tusa, last week, approved a programme of restructuring.

High principle?

Labour MP Jack Ashton,

political columnist of the *Daily Star* since 1979, has quit the paper — apparently in protest at its headlong rush towards the bottom of the barrel under new editor Michael Gabbert.

Says: "The new paper isn't really my style." Gabbert discounts claims by the NUJ that almost half the 61 journalists in the *Star's* London office want to quit. A chapel meeting last week passed a resolution expressing "dismay and disgust" at the paper's new editorial policies.

Features editor Ian Mayhew is reported to be taking an unscheduled holiday this week after refusing to lay out a fashion spread featuring Zeta, girlfriend of *Sunday Sport* founder David Sullivan, in black leather. Four other journalists have already handed in their notice. Gabbert points out, however, that the 140 editorial production staff in Manchester are very enthusiastic about the new look.

Local heroes

Attendance at next Monday's seminar at Downing Street on the future of television will not be limited to broadcasters. The advertisers will be there, too, in the shape of Dick Johnson, of Procter & Gamble.

ITV bosses who are hoping that their agreement to a commercial fifth television channel will relieve pressure from the advertisers to hivel off Channel 4, will be disappointed to hear that Johnson wants both a fifth channel and a privatized Channel 4.

Instead of a nation-wide fifth network, Johnson would

like to see a series of local stations covering just a single town or city. They could operate at low-cost, offering advertisers cheap rates in competition with local radio.

Birthday blues

The *Independent's* independence is beginning to look rather fragile as it celebrates its first birthday next month. Founder and editor Andreas Whitam Smith is cutting costs to avoid having to raise more cash from shareholders.

Departing staff, including women's editor Liz Jobey, are not being replaced in order to get staffing levels down from more than 380 to nearer the 324 originally proposed. Newspaper analyst Harold Lind calls the over-staffing "extremely dangerous" and thinks Whitam Smith may be over-optimistic in predicting revenue next year of £40 million, against £25-30 million in the first year.

There would be no shortage of suitors if the paper did need bailing out: Lonrho is known to be interested in a daily stablemate for *The Observer*, and the Australian Fairfax group, which owns the *Spectator*, has long been looking for a national paper to buy.

Briefly...

The *Sunday Telegraph* ups its cover-price five pence to 45p this weekend. Readers will have the consolation of a redesigned magazine... Advertisements will be appearing within the next week for a new editor of *The Listener*, now that the BBC and ITV companies have agreed in principle to run the magazine as a joint venture from the New Year...

Never mind the movie, try the cake course

Anyone who has watched Jane Fonda bounce through her lively *Workout* video exercises will know she is a hard act to follow. Much the same can be said of the video itself, which has been, to many minds, the only identifiable tape available in the embryonic non-fiction genre.

However, a series of recent events suggest that this situation is changing. No one predicts that the rash of new entries — from Jane Asher's *Cake Magic* to David Wilkie's *Splash* — will easily rival

Workout. But there is a clear development in video production and distribution which promises to make non-fiction tape buying just another part of the weekly shopping.

The deputy editor of *Video Business* magazine, Brian Harrigan, says: "The breakthrough began last year when it was proven that there was a market for videos priced under £10. Until then the industry was based entirely on feature films. But now the affluent ABC1 group are more interested in VCRs. Whereas

After the phenomenal success of the *Workout* video, non-fiction tapes could become a regular shopping item

they wouldn't rent a film, they might happily put the complete set of *The World At War* on a card."

Steve Ayers, managing director of Video Collection, which pioneered the £10 price, predicts that there will be a significant increase in the range and sales of docu-

mentary and instructional material in the run-up to Christmas. "We are convinced that the application of video goes far beyond entertainment," he says.

The difficulty of finding what titles are available has so far hampered sales. The director-general of the British

Videogram Association, Norman Abbott, says: "There is apparently an incredible wealth of material, but it is scattered. We are now researching it."

But the key to a higher profile for this field is the increasing willingness of shops to carry a variety of titles, such as the colourful *Sports Collection* launched yesterday by Opix Video.

This progress in retailing has, in turn, encouraged new companies like Watchword to concentrate on producing

fresh material from programmes like *Trick Snooker* with Joe Johnson, to 45-minute reviews of *The Year of your Birth*.

With producers modestly forecasting initial sales in the 5,000-unit range, the latest offerings will not threaten the Fonda mark of 200,000, but they should mean the nation will soon be using its VCRs for business as much as for pleasure.

Terence Doyle

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A VARIOUS FIRM: You will earn £12,000 in your first year with us. (Includes £1,000 for your first year's training).
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If you are aged 22-35, positive, hard working and well spoken, ring:

01-222 7570



MARKETING EXECUTIVE NATIONAL CARAVAN COUNCIL c. £14,000 pa

The National Caravan Council is the representative body of the British Caravan Industry. Its members are caravan manufacturers, caravan dealers, caravan park operators and those companies who provide the industry with its supplies and services.

The Marketing Executive provides technical and administrative support to the Promotional Committee for Holiday Caravans. His/her principal activities are concerned with the provision of an advisory service, committee administration, project work, representation duties and liaison with the Council's professional advisors, principally in connection with a seven figure national advertising campaign.

The Marketing Executive is based in the Council's offices at Aldershot but considerable travel is involved throughout the UK with a number of overnight stays away from home. The successful candidate will be over 25 but probably under 35 years of age and will be able to demonstrate proven success in an administrative capacity in a sales/marketing environment. Training will be given in the specialized areas of the job but educational qualifications to degree level are desirable.

The remuneration package includes a salary circa £14,000 per annum, a company car, contributory pension scheme and other fringe benefits. Assistance with relocation expenses will be provided, if necessary.

Write or telephone to the Secretary to the Director General for an application form in the first instance.
The National Caravan Council
Catherine House
Victoria Road
Aldershot
Hants GU11 1SS
Telephone: 0252 318251

ASSISTANT EDITOR

To work on two engineering magazines dealing with plastics and rubber.

British Plastics & Rubber is a technical monthly for processors of plastics and rubber. *Making it with Plastics* is a quarterly aimed at design engineers. The right applicant will have experience of technical journalism and an interest in the emergence of new engineering technologies.

Career details please to:

Ken Grace, MCM Publishing,
159 High Street, Clapham,
London SW4 7SS

DYNAMIC WINE MERCHANT

Seeks hard working, young assistant. Keen interest in wine essential.

Contact Jonathan Burr
Addison Vintners, 8 Addison Avenue
London W11, 01 603 6334

Publicity ASSISTANT

LONDON, W1
£ excellent

Etam plc - one of the country's most successful and progressive retail fashion groups - is currently expanding at a dramatic rate. This has resulted in increased investment in the vital area of publicity and PR.

This position represents a unique opportunity for a young self-motivated person with a fashion related background to join us at a time of exciting growth.

Assisting the Publicity Manager you will be involved in all aspects of promotion and the development and creation of strong market images which will fully utilize your excellent administrative abilities.

Please contact Lesley Roff, Personnel Controller on 01-437 5655 or write to her with full career details at Etam plc, 187-193 Oxford Street, London W1.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

Full time landscape architect/architect interested in all aspects of landscape design, including garden furniture and buildings, required by expanding small landscape design office.

Applicants must have experience in producing detailed working drawings and running of projects.

Please write enclosing CV to:

Mrs. R. Nicholson
Lennox-Boyd Landscape Design
45 Moreton Street
London SW1V 2NY.



RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS CIRCA £20,000

We are a successful and fast growing consultancy specialising in top-level sales and marketing recruitment.

We are looking for enthusiastic sales professionals who thrive in a busy and highly productive environment.

Please send your CV to

Heather Simpkin, Divisional Manager,
City Recruitment Consultants Ltd,
Ulcomb House, 58 Houndsditch,
London EC3A 7DL.

Highly competent PR REPRESENTATIVE and/or PR AGENCY

is required to establish contacts with leading executives in British business and industry in the field of international public relations. Self-motivated, creative, knowledge of the business world, together with persistence and the ability to set and realise targets will be rewarded with an excellent financial package.

Please contact Miss Magit Strohmeyer
on 01049 8152 1061.
Mühlfelder Straße 2, 08036 Herrsching,
near Munich, West Germany.

TRAINEE FINANCIAL ADVISOR

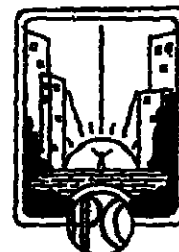
Top London Financial Services Group requires, for immediate start, 23-30 year old individuals to join a progressive team. Substantial remuneration available in return for a positive, professional approach. No experience necessary as full training given. Call the Recruitment Officer on 01-409 2129

Shyam Ahuja at LIBERTY SALES ASSISTANT

We require an enthusiastic, committed and versatile individual with retail experience and interest in fashion to sell the exciting Shyam Ahuja Home Collection of co-ordinated men's and women's. Applications with CV to: Brookes London Ltd, 5 Stelford Street, London SW8 5AB Tel: 022 5372

ACCOUNT MGRS ADVERTISING

Major print and outdoor advertising media sales. London, Oxford, Yorkshire, Lancashire & Midlands. 01-633 0661 K P Personnel (Agy)



H.P.C.C. Bus Garage Project Steering Group Ltd

Do you have what it takes to become part of a management team, managing Europe's largest multi-purpose business, sports, arts and leisure community centre, which has a revenue budget of approximately £1m?

We require enthusiastic and dedicated personnel to manage and co-ordinate the multi-various services and facilities the Complex offers. Applicants should have professional or relevant qualifications and should have at least two years' experience in the required field.

GENERAL MANAGER - P02C

We need an experienced dedicated and enthusiastic person to manage, co-ordinate and provide an input in all areas of management and who will head the Senior Management Team. She/he will be expected to liaise with Local/Central Government at the highest level therefore experience of dealing with public authorities on a similar level is essential as is experience of Corporate/Commercial Bodies. The General Manager's primary task will be to devise a strategy with the other Managers to maximise the profitability of the Project with an aim to ensure the self-sufficiency of the Complex within five years. The General Manager will be very much involved with public relations and will report to the Board on the running of the Complex.

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER - P02A

This position requires an able line manager to ensure a smooth operation on a day-to-day basis. This person will be required to deputise for the General Manager as appropriate. Candidates should have good experience of working within large companies and be able to motivate other managers.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING MANAGER - P01B

This position requires an individual experienced in the Personnel/Training field. A knowledge of working with Local Authority Bodies and the Voluntary Sector would be an advantage, as would working with Employment Officers and the MSC.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR - S02

We require an Events Co-ordinator to work in liaison with our Art & Ents Manager. Applicants should have at least two years' experience in this field and should be able to work on own initiative.

SPORTS MANAGER - P01B

We need a Sports Manager to manage the large Sports Hall and various other facilities (eg. Squash Courts, Weight Training etc), available at the Complex. Candidates must have experience of programming events aimed at the local community and the wider community, and be able to manage a team of Sports Officers. This person would be required to manage the budget for the department and be able to contribute to the Complex's aim of becoming self-sufficient within five years.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE MANAGER - S02

This post requires knowledge of the maintenance of large multi-purpose buildings with all its requisite requirements such as large heating systems and ventilation etc. Candidates should have at least two years' experience in the maintenance of multi-purpose buildings.

CATERING MANAGER - S02

This post requires managerial skills which would enable the restaurant and fast food service to become a profitable enterprise. Knowledge of the catering business is essential.

Also available: Legal Business Manager and Security Supervisor

Ms A. Banjo, Personnel Administrator

Stonebridge Community Complex
BRENTFIELD, Harrow Road, LONDON, NW10 0RG
Telephone: 01-965 2223 Ext 40
CLOSING DATE: 1st October 1987

Presidential Secretary Secretary to Group President and Vice-President c.£12,000

Watford is the European Headquarters of Parker Hannifin, part of a major US-based multi-national corporation and a leader in fluid power technology.

It's here in our modern offices that we now require a high calibre Secretary to assist two of our most senior executives in Europe.

An organisation of our size and prestige needs Secretaries who fully recognise the responsibility of their position, and are able to cope confidently and competently with a variety of duties.

Mature, experienced, commercially aware and with a strong, lively personality, you'll be able to expand and diversify your role in a high-powered environment.

Additionally, you must be highly flexible, able to think on behalf of your boss, and familiar with all secretarial responsibilities - including operating word processors and personal computers.

Our open-plan offices, equipped with the latest technology are located close to Watford Junction Station, within easy distance of both M1 and M25.

In addition to your attractive salary, we offer 25 days' holiday, and the benefits only a company of our stature can offer.

So if you're keen, enthusiastic and relish responsibility please send a typed, comprehensive CV to Leszek A. Marciniak, Personnel Manager (UK), at Parker Hannifin, Star House, 69-71 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1DQ, or phone Watford (0923) 246611 for an application form.



Financial Editor

Goldman Sachs, a leading international investment banker, seeks an ambitious graduate with 2-3 years' experience in financial editing or sub-editing to the new post of Financial Editor.

You will coordinate our London publishing activities, editing research information arising from the corporate and European equity sectors. This information must be conveyed concisely and readably to specialist and non-specialist audiences worldwide.

The position is highly accountable and carries a strong measure of personal responsibility. We would expect you to be articulate and a good communicator, able to fit naturally into the dynamic business environment of our London Office. An understanding of German and French to "reading" standard and some knowledge of economics would be useful. You will benefit from an initial training period with our office in New York.

Meet our requirements and we will offer you a competitive salary and attractive benefits package.

Please write, in confidence, enclosing a detailed CV, to date, to Jackie Watson, Personnel Associate, Goldman Sachs International Corp., 5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7AH.



SALES ASSISTANTS required by FOYLES WORLD FAMOUS BOOKSHOP

Exciting and challenging opportunities for people enthusiastic about books, foreign languages and music, with opportunity of meeting people from all over the world. Commencing salary £130 per week.
Apply in writing to
Foyles, 119 Charing Cross Road, WC2

COMMODITIES/FUTURES SALES TRAINEE ACCOUNT EXEC AGED 21-30 C £15,000

Our client is one of the top UK houses operating in the US futures market.

They require an ambitious well spoken young professional preferred grad for an excellent ground floor opportunity. Must be available immediately and live within commuting distance of the city.

Call Michael Tulce on 01 631 3275
Alexander Mann Associates
231 Tottenham Court Road
London W1P 9AE

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

P.A. TO DIRECTOR

Our client, a multi-national banking group, is seeking a first class PA/Secretary to work for the Head of the UK operation. He carries full responsibility for marketing the Group's financial services in Europe, the Middle East and North America. Consequently he requires full support from someone who is professional, articulate, well presented and capable of working in a truly international environment. Not only does he rely upon his PA/Secretary to become involved in organising his high-profile and successful business life, but also have the discretion to administer his personal work. The successful candidate needs to demonstrate a good track record at senior level, preferably in banking/marketing. A knowledge of French would be useful. Skills: 100/60. Age Indicator: 26-35.

ORIENT EXPRESS

to £15,000 plus Mortgage Subsidy, paid overtime and bonus

MacBlain Nash

Please Telephone 01-439 6477

Recruitment Consultants

THE SELECT FEW

MacBlain Nash is one of the very few highly selective recruitment consultancies who can offer good PA Shorthand Secretaries, with or without WP skills, immediate and continuous senior level temporary assignments at competitive rates of pay.

Telephone now for further details on 439 0601.
Carrington House, 130 Regent St., LONDON W1 Tel: 01-439 0601
(Entrance in Regent Place above Iberia Airways)



MacBlain NASH Temporary Secretaries

CO-ORDINATE TOP LEVEL TRANSACTIONS

Your ambition, professionalism and efficiency will enable you to be right arm to the young Managing Director in charge of commercial property development at this well-established Merchant Bank. A highly capable individual, you will be responsible for organising his intensive diary engagements, running the office in his absence, as well as liaising

with clients. Naturally, a background in property finance is an asset.

Aged in your mid 20s to mid 30s, your initiative, commitment and excellent secretarial skills (audio is desirable) will command a suitably impressive salary of c. £15,000.

Telephone: 01-499 0092; 173 New Bond Street, W1Y 9PB.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

TELEVISION ADVERTISING

Senior Secretary - London Sales HQ

Scottish Television is part of the ITV network broadcasting to a potential audience of 3.5 million people within Central Scotland.

Our revenue last year from the sale of commercial airtime totalled £70.3 million, well over 80% of which was negotiated by our London Sales Team based near Trafalgar Square. The electric and fast moving operation can be parallel to that of a City trading floor.

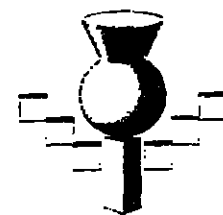
We wish to recruit a first-class senior secretary to compliment our General Sales Manager and his sales team. The successful applicant will have sound commercial experience, work efficiently and calmly under deadline pressure, be well organised, able to delegate, have excellent shorthand/typing skills (min 100/60 wpm) and probably be over 26 years of age.

In return we offer job satisfaction, lively enthusiastic environment, prestigious open-plan offices, £12,000 p.a., 25 working days holiday, season ticket loan, pension and LVs.

If you are looking for more of a challenge and possess the above abilities telephone:

01: 836 1500

Mrs. J. A. Hawkesworth
Scottish Television plc
7 Adelaide Street
London WC2N 4LZ



SCOTTISH TELEVISION

International Technical Advisers Limited

SECRETARY

required to work as part of the sales team.

Reporting to the Managing Director, you will be expected to carry out the usual duties associated with a senior secretary.

Experience of working in a similar position essential for this very demanding post. Also excellent shorthand and typing skills.

Salary £11,000+ plus other benefits.

Please send CV to:

International Technical Advisers Limited,
9 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6XF
(No agencies)

Trained from Scratch

c.£12,000-£18,000 p.a.

Have you considered becoming a Recruitment Consultant? It is a remarkable business which offers great job satisfaction and the people who make good consultants come from a variety of work backgrounds.

Crone Corkill is currently looking for two people to train as consultants within the group. The company has grown steadily over the last ten years; we now have 35 people in five different divisions and have become a market leader in the Secretarial Recruitment field.

We welcome ambitious candidates in their 20s who should have proven success in a job and want to develop their range of personal skills. We are a closely-knit team of independent individuals, each of whom is expected to make a real contribution to the whole. There are great opportunities for promotion - through the Research Assistant, Trainee Consultant and Consultant stages you learn and develop more. For some, running a team as a manager is the next step and there is still space on the management board for people with the talent to help run the company.

Please contact Sara Bonsey, Director
18 Eldon Street, London EC2.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Take the stage as a Crone Corkill temp £7.50 per hour

It's 9.00 a.m. on a Monday morning and you're the centre of attention as you walk into an office full of people you've never seen before... instant panic or the calm assurance that comes with knowing you're a Crone Corkill temp?

Our temps are used to being in the limelight and we appreciate their calibre by paying them all the same excellent hourly rate.

You will need speeds of 100/60, good w.p. skills and two years' Director level secretarial experience in London or a comparable capital city.

Join a team where everyone's a star performer and clients regularly request an encore.

Please ring: 434 4512 for an appointment or a factsheet now.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CJES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5PU

Tel: 01-588 3586 ext 01-588 3576

Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 01-256 8501

Opportunity to join a small, expanding team.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO T.V./PUBLISHING RIGHTS MANAGER

LONDON W1 £9,000-£11,000

T.V./PUBLISHING ARM OF NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATION

Applications are invited from candidates aged 25+ with accurate typing and word processing and at least 1-2 years experience gained in a specialised legal or media environment to join this exciting new venture. The Manager is responsible for negotiating all T.V. and publishing rights for this national educational organisation and requires an assistant who is used to working under pressure, to provide full administrative and editorial support and, on occasions, accompany him to his meetings with producers and publishers. Responsibilities will include frequent contact on the telephone with solicitors, television and film companies, as well as printers and publishers and an interest in education and the media would be a distinct advantage. Secretarial duties will include preparation of highly confidential contracts, drafting, setting up and maintaining a filing system and generally running the office in the Manager's absence. The qualified our client seeks are accuracy and an eye for detail, discretion, numeracy and good organisational skills as well as a mature and flexible attitude and the ability to deal tactfully with people at all levels. Initial remuneration is negotiable, £9,000-£11,000 plus 5 weeks holiday, contributory pension and season ticket loan. Applications in strict confidence under reference STV/OTT to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LIMITED (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS), 1 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5PU.

TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 OR 01-588 3575. TEL: 887374. FAX: 01-256 8501

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT £13,000

This rapidly expanding company has just "gone public" and their Corporate Director now seeks an organised and committed PA/Secretary. There will be the opportunity to grow as the company grows and you will be required to use your initiative to the full. 100/50 w.p. skills needed.

OSBORNE RICHARDSON

Small, Finance & Insurance Division

10 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

01-409 2393

BREAK INTO BANKING £11,500

Our client, a friendly but dynamic international bank in EC2, is currently seeking a PA/Secretary. Both posts have a good administrative content and offer an excellent chance to gain banking experience. Very plush offices and full banking benefits offered. 100/55 w.p. skills needed.

THE SPANISH PROMOTION CENTRE SECRETARY TO THE ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR

The Spanish Promotion Centre in London requires a Secretary for its Administration Department. Good knowledge of Spanish, good standard of typing and shorthand, numerate, methodical, well organised, flexible attitude and willing manner are all necessary.

9am-5pm Monday to Friday, 4 weeks holiday a year. Salary in the region of £10,000 per annum. 3 month trial period.

Candidates please write with CV to: The Administration Director, The Spanish Promotion Centre, 22 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AP

PR SECRETARY BRIGHT YOUNG SECRETARY

required to join a busy and fast-growing company in W1. We are looking for a well-organised and capable person to be a PA/Secretary to the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for organising his day, dealing with clients and liaising with senior people. Excellent conditions, free BUPA, pension, generous bonus. For details telephone Alex Perkins on 01-625 8524. Mammot Press Ltd, 15 Fish Street Hill, London EC3

THE NEXT STEP c.£15,000 (Banking Package)

Take this opportunity to progress to the next stage of your career as secretary to the Managing Director of Banking and Capital Markets in a well-established merchant bank. Based in superb offices in EC2, this senior executive is looking for a confident and professional secretary to provide full back-up. Your responsibilities will include co-ordinating meetings, extensive travel arrangements, some personal work and liaison with clients. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills (120/60 W.P.), a good sense of humour and banking experience. Age range 25-40. Please call 588 3535.

Crone Corkill RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BLUE CHIP £13,000

A famous name Blue Chip company with interests spanning the world seeks a Secretary/PA to its associate director. Enjoy a secure and varied role. Beautiful offices and free lunch. 60wpm typing ability needed, shorthand useful.

Please telephone 01-240 3531. Early/late appointments arranged.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants 18 Grosvenor Street London W1

PA/SEC for MD of small commercial and education company. Full/part-time. Requirements are book-keeping PAYE, VAT return, typing and administration. Salary £10,000. Call 01-451 7876

PERSONNEL PUBLIC RELATIONS £11,000

Managing director level opening for computer secretary/PA with the ability to undertake the recruitment of support staff within the PR company. Knowledge of word processing preferred and shorthand advantageous although not essential.

01-491 1074

SECRETARY

c. £10,000 p.a.

NEW PUBLISHING COMPANY - CAMDEN

WEKA Publishing is the newly established UK subsidiary of an international publishing house. We are a friendly expanding company producing a range of specialist publications which are supplied direct to the customer by mail order.

We are shortly moving to beautiful new offices near Camden Town Station and need a bright, enthusiastic Secretary for three senior Marketing and Editorial executives. Fast, accurate typing (audio and copy) is vital. Use of Brother 811 Memory/WP typewriter - training given. Some knowledge of German useful, but not essential.

This is a job with plenty of variety and good promotion prospects in a new, expanding company.

Please apply in writing with your C.V. (giving day-time telephone number) to: Tessa Marshall, WEKA Publishing Limited, Premier House, 77 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RB.

(No agencies)

adventure

PR/AD AGY, EC1

Need PA / Sec / Assistant with good typ & rusty S/H for Board Dir + 2. Prel. PR exp for involving job paying £8-28,500

SMALL PR CO, SW1

Need enthusiastic & flex. PA/Sec. No S/H to work on new bus. £9-29,500.

Please ring Brown or Widd at the Agency.

Adventure Personnel Ltd 63 South Molton Street London W1Y 1HH Tel: 01 629 5747

SENIOR SECRETARY to £14,000

If you would enjoy working in a stimulating, fast-moving environment without the pressure of long hours, then join our client, a firm of financial advisors. Working for two senior level executives, you will be dealing with highly confidential matters, so discretion is as important as your excellent skills (100/60) and WP experience.

MOVE ON UP? to £14,000

Join this leading investment company as secretary/PA to the managing director of their property division, which deals in high quality projects. If you are confident and self-motivated this is an excellent opportunity to get totally involved and take on a true PA role. 100/60 skills and WP experience needed.

Please telephone 01-240 3551. Early/late appointments arranged.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants 2 Bow Lane London EC4

PERSONNEL Secretary with shorthand to act in support role to consultants dealing with demanding professionals. Excellent skills combined with good telephone manner and a sharp mind will earn you an attractive remuneration plus an in-house lunch; the ability to smile under pressure is essential. Ideal age 25-34.

Please ring in confidence.

Black Dinsmore on 01 242 0784 between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm.

PA/SH SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

The chairman of our prestigious, rapidly expanding Holdings Company based in a country manor house requires a secretary/PA with a minimum of 2 years' experience at Board Director level. Excellent speeds of at least 90/50 wpm in addition to the special qualities required for this career. Your own transport is essential. Non-smoker please. Salary £10,000.

Please send CV to: Caroline Thorne, Personnel, Middle Holdings Ltd, Sharnley Hall, Rectory Lane, Sharnley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9AN

SUCCESS! £14,000 + Bonus

Your potential boss heads up one of the most successful corporate advertising teams in the business. The secretarial content of this job is high, but don't be misled. So is involvement and responsibility and a graduate is definitely preferred. If you enjoy the hard work that creates this level of success, can handle the full support role of a true PA and have a highly organised approach with a keen sense of priorities, the rewards can be yours.

Age: 24-35
Skills: 100/60

RECRUITMENT 5 GARRICK STREET COVENT GARDEN
COMPANY TEL: 01-831 1220

FINANCE IN ADVERTISING

£12,000 Neg

D'Arcy Moskus Benton & Bowles are a large international Advertising Agency at No 251 James's Square, SW1. Our nearest tube station is Piccadilly. We are currently seeking an intelligent, numerate secretary/PA with enthusiasm, initiative and humour to work for our Financial Director and his Controller.

Having gained sound secretarial and administrative experience in the financial sector, our ideal applicant would have an understanding of word processing or computers and the ability to liaise confidently at all levels with the staff of our Agency.

If you are looking for increasing responsibility and would enjoy the challenge of working within an Advertising environment this could be the opportunity you are seeking. We have 4 weeks' holidays, BUPA and STL scheme and a sub food and wine bar. For further details please telephone Mrs Helen Brient 839 3422.

(No Agencies)

SECRETARY

Required to provide full secretarial services for the Finance Director of a large international hotel group. You should be in your mid to early twenties with good skills including S/H and W.P. and preferably some experience of finance administration. We offer a good salary and top quality free meals.

Please contact Personnel on 01-834-6655 ext. 2928 for further details.

TAJ INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

MATURE PA FUND MANAGERS

c.£13,000 + BONUS

A Main Board Director of a top City FUND MANAGERS requires a shorthand PA/Sec capable of organising his day, dealing with clients and liaising with senior people.

Excellent conditions, free BUPA, pension, generous bonus.

For details telephone Alex Perkins on 01 625 8524.

Mammot Press Ltd, 15 Fish Street Hill, London EC3

DRAKE PERSONNEL PA IN ADVERTISING £11k+

Join this large multi-national Ad Agency. Assist senior director as he oversees lots of internationally well known accounts, organise his diary & travel arrangements. The environment is young and friendly with in-house social activities daily. With good audio & W.P.

Call Jo Nicholls on 01-629 4031.

Be seen with the right company

CHelsea ESTATE AGENTS

Busy Lettings and Management Dept are looking for a Secretary with opportunities to become a junior negotiator. Good typing, rusty shorthand and good audio experience. Salary by negotiation.

01 351 0821

BRIGHT SPARK IN PROPERTY

Organised and energetic young secretary required for small head office of hotel/property group. Excellent audio typing necessary together with immediate grammar and spelling but no shorthand. Sense of humour and flexibility essential. Good S/H. Kensington. Salary £25,500 with early review and great social facilities.

Tel: 01 491 4045 (No Agencies)

W1 PRIVATE SECRETARY £9,000

Private psychiatric practice requires full-time senior secretary with sympathetic personality and good telephone manner to work in pleasant surroundings near Baker Street with a group of doctors. WP experience essential. References required. Telephone 01 835 2191/886

PA SEC £16,000 + MORT

Senior PA required by MD of City based insurers. This is a busy post needing excellent S/H, audio and typing skills. A1 presentation and a high level of education. Age 25-35. Generous benefits inc sub mort, ins, STL & NCPFS. Duke Street Personnel 01 493 8676

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

DRAKE PERSONNEL

The People People

TRAIN IN PERSONNEL
£11,000

Are you genuinely interested to be part of the extremely busy but highly productive personnel dept. This leading merchant bank needs a real trooper to assist their director. Definite prospects to move up the personnel ladder. Excellent S/H and typing skills needed. 5 salary bonuses a year.

Call Graham Sacconi on 01-734 0911.

STYLISH RECEPTION
£9,000

Elegant and brand new hi-tech reception suite awaits you to complement its style. Based in WI this established but vibrant firm of architects need your skill and expertise to deal with their clients. A smart attractive appearance and willingness to assist with grace a essential.

Call Sonia Brastavsky on 01-734 0911.

ADVERTISING
£11,000

Assist the MD of Marketing in this Advertising Agency. You will be dealing with confidential matters in addition to keeping your boss diary, organising meetings/travel arrangements. There will be client liaison both in person and on the telephone. If you have good S/H and typing skills.

Call Natalie Druker on 01-629 4031.

MARKET YOUR FRENCH

Use your fluent French in the Marketing Dept of a leading perfume & make-up company. Assisting the promotions team in all aspects of marketing, use your excellent S/H & typing. Subsidised restaurant, discount on products & health club, 5 weeks holiday & French lesson!

Call Judy Lewis on 01-834 0388.

EXTROVERT
£12,000

Looking for something different? The chairman and young, dynamic property director need you to organise them. It's a really friendly company and excellent perks include merit bonus, BUPA, discount on cars and the chance to move into consultancy. Good S/H and typing.

Call Sue Lintern on 01-834 0388.

HARD SALES PA
£11,000

One of London's foremost houses is currently seeking an outgoing, smart assistant to their successful sales manager. With multiple responsibilities across London your ability to liaise extensively with clients alone and also organise and ease her hectic workload is a must. Excellent S/H and typing. Perks.

Call Sue Gallienne on 01-734 0911.

FRENCH FLAIR
£11,000

Your French skills will be used frequently in this high-powered position. As a secretarial assistant to a team of traders, you will enjoy your own areas of responsibility, a busy and young environment and varied duties. Use your French & S/H typing skills in this demanding role.

Call Sharon Kay on 01-221 5072.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTSWEAR
£10,500

This world famous Swiss textile house is looking for a secretary in their sportswear division. A high level of involvement and client liaison is expected of you working alongside 3 directors. Coordinate the marketing of new seasons' fabric designs. With a flair for fashion.

Call Margaret Wines on 01-831 0666.

FLAIR FOR DESIGN?
£11,000

Step into the exciting world of Interior Design with your secretarial skills as a back up. Workside by side with the MD and project designer, help research into new fabrics, keep the slide library up to date and grow with this fast expanding company.

Call Marie Therese Ostrowski on 01-831 0666.

AMERICAN GAMES
£11,000

A young American MD seeks a diplomatic, organised PA with sense of humour. Be involved in all computer game projects, client liaison and the running of the office. You will receive an excellent salary & perks, private health care and 5 weeks holiday. Typing/VP skills needed.

Call Sangeeta Panj on 01-734 0911.

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Tasteful Temping ...

No hassles. No let-downs, just plain, simple high grade temping.

A tasteful package of top jobs, elite rates and thoroughly professional service.

If you have sound skills and experience, you should be talking to The Work Shop.

Telephone Sue Cooke on 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

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This is an exceptional opportunity for a form organiser with a strong sense of direction and a creative background. The company specialises in the design of album covers, brochures and corporate image presentation. Your role as Administrator includes involvement in the creative thinking process, participation in meetings (in and out of the office) and a lot of client liaison. Able to prioritise and handle your own correspondence? Age 24+? Call today on 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

City Advertising

£10,000 + bonus

This is a small independent company within a large exclusive group. They specialise in financial advertising/PR and provide fast-moving variety in a lovely, upmarket environment. As PA to their dynamic young MD you will organise meetings, liaise with clients and become totally involved. Prospects are good. Benefits include beautiful staff restaurant/bar, clothing allowance, BUPA and annual bonus. Skills 80/50? Flexible, professional and well-educated? Age 22/25? Call today on 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

Am I Dreaming?

Advertising - to £10,000

Yes, it is possible to enjoy fast-paced excitement, friendly surroundings AND great prospects - all in the creative world of Advertising. Our client, London's leading Agency, offers all this and more. Competitive, dynamic and dedicated to personal career development they provide exceptional prospects for exceptional people. Confident, competent and hungry to take on more? Looking for real involvement? If you have good skills (80/80) and are 20+ the future starts now. Call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

Elite Reception

to £10,000

Our client, a leading Design Consultancy, seeks an articulate, intelligent Receptionist. They work with some of the most prestigious names in exclusive consumer merchandising. Your role is therefore of key importance and is structured to allow for high levels of involvement. In addition to meeting and greeting VIP guests, you will also assist the Studio Manager - composing your own letters, and using their brilliant WP. Accurate typing (45wpm) requested. Age: 25 years. Please call 01-493 5787.

GORDON YATES

Recruitment Consultants

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR A YOUNG SECRETARY

OIL CO. S.W.1.

Mobil has a great environment to offer a young Secretary who is keen to gain good all-round commercial experience.

Join us at our Victoria offices and you could be part of a small team providing full secretarial and administrative support to the Accounting and Finance department.

You will need 3-5 'O' levels - including English, plus RSA II typewriting and shorthand. Audio skills would be an advantage, as would word processing ability - although full WP training will be given.

An attractive starting salary will be offered, together with a wide range of benefits, as expected of a major company.

Please write with full cv, stating current salary, to: Jill Blackshaw, Employee Relations, Mobil Oil Company Limited, Mobil House, 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QB.

Mobil

ADMIN WITH A DIFFERENCE

Canning runs communication and English language seminars for international business and professional people in London, Bath, Milan and Tokyo. We are looking for lively independent people to join our team in Kensington. If you really enjoy meeting people and want to work in a friendly informal atmosphere, read on.

Course Administrators. We are looking for two efficient and energetic people who enjoy variety and a challenge. You must have a good telephone manner and the ability to keep smiling under pressure. Good secretarial skills are necessary and you must be able to plan and prepare budgets. Languages would be useful. One vacancy is in our one-to-one training dept and the successful applicant will be responsible for the running of that department. The other vacancy involves responsibility for the smooth running of group courses including arranging social activities for participants. These are not routine jobs and initiative and a flexible approach are essential. Salary £9,600 - £9,800 rising to £10,000 - £10,200 on confirmation.

Administration Dept. We need a capable adaptable person with excellent telephone manner and good typing skills. You will be involved with all the activities of the school and an ability to communicate with people of all levels and cultures is essential. Languages, WP experience and familiarity with travel/visa arrangements useful. Salary to £9,500.

Research Development and Production Dept. We need an able administrator with good English language skills, who can use a PC creatively to produce new training material, operate and develop departmental systems and take responsibility for the day-to-day running of the department. The role calls for imagination, an eye for layout, good typing and the ability to keep to project deadlines. Computer experience is a major advantage. Salary to £9,500.

Age range 25 - 45. We offer 7 weeks holiday, pension and profit sharing schemes.

If you are interested please call us on (01) 937 3233

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LIAISON

As PA to the Business Development Manager in charge of capital markets at this fast-expanding Stockbrokers, you will be part of a brand new team. Exceptionally well-spoken and immaculately presented, you will be in regular contact with international clients. Preferred-level experience, preferably gained in a banking environment, is essential. You will be delegated considerable responsibility in composing correspondence and will possess the initiative to handle complex

travel arrangements as well as running the office in the Manager's absence.

Your flexibility and enthusiasm in meeting important deadlines, and in assisting the Chairman (when necessary), will be highly valued. Aged 23 to 30 with sound keyboard skills, you will be rewarded with a salary of £12,000+ (negotiable), mortgage subsidy, 10% bi-annual bonus plus BUPA.

Telephone: 01-606 1611; 3-6 Trump Street, EC2V 8DA

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THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

14 PRINCES GATE, HYDE PARK, LONDON SW7 1PU

SECRETARY

Salary £7,998 - £9,289 p.a. (incl London Weighting)

We are looking for an enthusiastic Secretary to provide a secretarial service to the Administrator and the Medical Adviser of the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice. In addition to normal secretarial duties the job involves 'progress chasing', prioritising work, and deputising for the Postgraduate Training Clerk in her absence.

The successful candidate will have an audio typing speed of 45 w.p.m. (min), be word processor trained and have at least 12 months secretarial experience. This is a challenging position offering a wide variety of work in a busy department.

Please telephone the Establishments Officer on 01-581 3232 ext 256 for further details and an application form. Applications should be sent to the above address by 15th October 1987. Please quote ref 34/80

Up, Up and Away ...

£10,000 + benefits

Would you like a job in glamorous Knightsbridge, where you will spend half your time away from the typewriter? ... this could be a shining Career Move for you with a fascinating and unusual company where people count for a lot more than just their ability to type! The Business is people and they are world leaders at it ... you will be involved 100% from Day One. So if you want to work alongside positive people, are willing to learn - even going away on courses - and you are 20+, call 01-493 0713.

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TOP SECRETARY NIGHTINGALE SECRETARIAT BERKELEY SQUARE

We need a capable and ambitious secretary to join our team in our expanding centre.

Successful applicants will have excellent S/H and knowledge of WP with a minimum of 3 years exp, as well as the ability to deal with people at all levels.

If you are aged 20-30 we offer excellent salary, car, dress allowance etc.

Call today ref 28 01 629 6116 or write Nightingale Secretariat, 3 Berkeley Square, London W1.

LITIGATION SECRETARIES

£11,000 p.a.

Small Covent Garden solicitors require accurate hardworking secretaries with good telephone manner for Warr up in professional negligence field. Opportunity for future pc training on computer software for 1 applicant. Friendly informal office. Legal experience preferred though determination, ability and capacity for work more important. 4 weeks holiday.

Apply with c.v. to: Squire & Co, 40/42 King St, London WC2E 8JS or telephone Mr Reynolds on 01-379 5404

essanele

c£11,000 KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Essanele is an International Fashion Retailer operating Europe's largest hair and beauty salon chain.

The Administrative PA to the UK Salon Director is a demanding position requiring experience, initiative, discretion and the ability to cope with pressure. She will also need very good communication skills to liaise with regional and salon managers, senior store executives and suppliers.

The work is very varied and interesting and as well as the usual PA/secretarial duties, includes regional conference booking and administration, as well as other administrative responsibilities.

The successful candidate will be career minded, at least 23, capable, reliable and well spoken, and someone who enjoys working in the fashion industry.

Please write with CV in confidence to Gise Connolly, Personnel Director, 27 - 37 St George's Road, London SW19 4DS.

SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENT

to a growing firm of Accountants.

The work involves secretarial and together with existing secretaries, reception and telephone duties. The practice is taking aboard a very high level of computerisation and word processing and full training will be given.

Applicants should have a good command of written and spoken English and preference will be given to someone who has competent experience in an accountancy firm.

Salary: c£11,500 (plus private health care scheme).

Please Frances Morrissey on 01-262 7255 or write to:

IVOR BARRY & CO, Linthorpe House, 36 Linthorpe Street, LONDON NW1 6HP.

Advertising PA/Secretary - with a good advertising background to work with Board Director at top agency. c£12,000

TV Station PA/Secretary - Professional, totally dedicated PA/Sec to assist dynamic MD. An interest in TV and the ability to cope under pressure most important. c£12,000

Ad Agency Senior Receptionist - to take control of reception at this well known and very prestigious ad agency. c£10,000

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EXCEPTIONAL PA WITH FRENCH

2nd Jobber or outstanding 1987 college leaver

He is the Chief Executive of an important French representative bank in the City requiring an assistant whose role is of crucial importance to the smooth running of his operation.

You have fluent French and excellent secretarial skills, including English and French shorthand. You also want more than that and you will thrive on the high administration content of this position. Your initiative and talent for grasping situations and dealing with all levels to the full. You are lively, confident and will enjoy client contact. Some travel to Paris envisaged.

Preferred age: 23+.

International Secretaries Recruitment Consultants 01-491 7100

REACH FOR THE SKY

INTERIOR DESIGNERS S.W.18. to £11,000

Buy Director of the well known Co needs an Audio PA/Sec with a sense of humour, immaculate secretarial skills and the ability to remain calm. This is a great opportunity to become involved. We are also looking for a College Leaver for S.W.18 for this company.

Call us Today, Ring Sally Owens on 235 8427 4 Pont Street, London S.W.1.

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PR STEPPING STONE

Here is an exciting opportunity for a confident and ambitious secretary looking to start a career in Public Relations. Working as a PA to the dynamic MD of SW7 based PR company will provide the basic and thorough grounding necessary to progress to Account Executive. Duties will include liaising with clients, journalists and suppliers; helping prepare and run press conferences plus the full range of secretarial back-up. Candidates should have 'A' levels, fast and accurate audio typing and WP skills. Age range early to mid 20's. Salary £10,000. Please call

437 6032.

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CAROLINE KING

★ PROPERTY PA £10,000 ★

Sociable, outgoing PA is sought by the partner of this prestigious international firm. Busy varied day including for of for holding for an extremely nice boss who will often take you for lunch! Audio typing and WP essential.

★ RECRUITMENT PA £9,750 ★

If you like liaising with the media, applicants and carrying out research you will really enjoy assisting the executive recruitment officer of this international company. Audio typing and WP required.

please telephone: 01-499 8070 87 New Bond Street London W.1. CAROLINE KING SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

ROOM WITH A VIEW

£13,000

How would you like to work as PA/Secretary to a Director of an internationally renowned company with luxurious offices overlooking Green Park?

As a key member of this dynamic and successful communication skills so as to build a rapport with his top international clients and the ability to research his varied projects. The position offers enormous variety and requires confidence and initiative.

Accurate typing and WP knowledge are required; shorthand would be useful. Age preferred 30-45. Please call 01-631 0479.

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Reussi Aujourd'hui!

£12,500

Plus Banking Benefits

A rare opportunity has arisen within the personal banking division of this leading Mayfair investment house. Assisting the senior account manager you will be encouraged to develop a strong public relations role whilst offering administrative support with minimal secretarial content. A financial background is essential together with fluent French. Call 01-489 0889/01-236 2522

Recruitment Consultants

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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES LONDON-WIDE NEED YOUR...

MULTIMEDIA WORDPLEX CPT AES

WANG IBM DW 3 & 4 RX 850 PHILIPS

Your good secretarial & WP skills will be well rewarded.

If you have good language abilities in addition...

PLEASE CALL TODAY!

IBM DW 3 Or excellent WP skills

STABLE TEMPORARY POST

Lively, interesting personnel dept in prestigious bank. Fantastic location + superb new offices. Liaise & assist using your diplomatic skills.

Join in the administration & provide support. Audio, accurate 50 wpm. 22+.

Report to Senior Manager. Non-smoker a trust.

International Secretaries Recruitment Consultants 01-491 7100

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In the City

This is not the sort of job everybody could handle..... if you can, the rewards are sky high, including career advancement. This Senior Manager in Traded Options is eager to appoint an Assistant capable of establishing their own identity and making a positive and immediate contribution in what has to be one of the busiest and most exciting centres of the trading world. You will be expected to

conduct research, set up a database and monitor the market information vital for successful trading. The position is ideally suited to a secretary preparing to make that elusive career transfer towards executive status. The change is not easy and to succeed your ambition must be accompanied by drive, enthusiasm and absolute commitment. 80/50. Age 21-25. c£10,750 plus superb benefits package.

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APPOINTMENTS
01-499 3531/3551

TRADING PLACES

Secretary today, Trader tomorrow

Senior Secretaries

Asda MFI Group PLC, incorporating the highly successful Asda Superstore operation has the following unique career opportunities for experienced secretaries to work at Director level with its Group Headquarters. Naturally, each vacancy calls for a high standard of personal presentation and secretarial skills which, depending on the position offered, range from copy typing, to audio, shorthand and word processing. The ability to cope with fluctuating workloads and to communicate effectively at all levels both within the Company and externally is essential.

Group Finance

A sound appreciation of the workings and terminology within a financial environment would be an advantage, plus the ability to cope effectively with busy diaries, travel arrangements and extensive telephone liaison.

Business Development

This position calls for sound organisational skills and an interest in working as part of a small team in the analysis of a variety of potential business projects, with emphasis on the production of reports.

Company Secretariat

Aside from secretarial duties a keen administrative flair in arranging Board Meeting Schedules and maintaining all related paperwork, minutes etc, will be required.

It is likely that suitable candidates will be in their late 20's/30's with several years' experience at a similar level. It is anticipated that within 6-9 months of the above positions will be based in the Regent Park Area, however in the interim they will be located in Watford. Therefore, applicants must initially be prepared to commute.

These positions carry attractive salaries, together with an excellent range of benefits including staff discount, share participation, pension and BUPA schemes. Interested? Please phone or write for an application form or submit a full CV including current salary to: L.C. Porter, Personnel Department, Asda Stores, Asda House, Britannia Road, Morley, Leeds LS27 0BT. Telephone: (0532) 539141 ext 2312 or 2086.

ASDA - MFI
GROUP PLC
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

No time for interviews?
- Join us after work

Bowl them over in the City with your energy, enthusiasm and good secretarial skills. We have an Aladdin's Cave of exciting opportunities in banks, stockbroking firms, investment houses and the professions, all with eye-opening salaries and excellent benefits waiting for you. So—if you are looking for your second job or are on the move in the City come and see us.

If you are 19-25 and have good secretarial skills we look forward to meeting you. Come along to either office on Thursday 17th September from 5.30 pm for an informal chat and a glass of wine.

18 Eldon Street
Moorgate EC2
01-588 3535

Crone Corkill
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Victory House
99-101 Regent Street W1
01-434 4512

JOBS YOU'D DIE FOR

Exaggeration? Maybe. But the jobs that Amanda has going demand dedication and a cool head.

You'll be in the West End, in the fast lane world of fashion, advertising or the media.

So, if you're looking for responsibility and a job you'll love, call Amanda today. She won't ask you to die right away. She'll probably just suggest you come down to Covent Garden for a chat.

Amanda
Barrington
(01) 379 7007
She's funny, because you are.

ARE YOU A SELF-STARTER?

£12,000 - £14,000

Act as the central pivot, help with publicity, take over the administration and be available to entertain! All these are part of the days work as Secretary/PA to the Marketing Director of a new European marketing enterprise. Plenty of scope for initiative and involvement.

SECRETARIAL SELECTION
01 493 2545

MOTIVATED AND WELL ORGANISED SECRETARY

Required for busy, frequently absent businessman to be solely responsible for his London office. Varied and interesting work. Smart appearance and good manner essential. Lots of telephone liaison. Good salary. Part-time of full-time.

Please telephone:
01 937 2949 or Emma on 01 409 5029
for immediate appointment.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Employment Agency c£8,000
We are seeking an exceptional person to assist a busy Recruitment Team. Sound secretarial skills (inc. basic shorthand and typing) are essential, as are special organisational ability, endless energy and a sense of humour. This position would suit a keen 'second jobber', 19+, with the desire to be fully involved.

BRANCH ASSISTANT
Employment Agency c£6,500
With basic typing (25wpm) and an organised approach, you may be the ideal person to handle the day-to-day procedures of a branch recruitment office. If you have some office experience, are aged 17+, and available now, call

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01 242 8844 - 81 CHANCERY LANE - LONDON WC2A 1EU
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE PA

£17,000 +

Dynamic Director of City company needs your Board level experience and diplomatic approach. In return he will be happy to hand over the running of the office to you and offer you total involvement. Skills 100/60. Age 25 - 35.

01 583 0055 / 1094

Meredith Scott Recruitment

SECRETARY

English/German, totally bilingual to work in London office of German publishing company. Self starter, adaptable, good typing skills, to work in small, friendly office. We offer a respectable salary, health insurance and 4 weeks holiday.

Please write with full C.V. to:

Karin Dahmen,

Gruener + Jahr International,

7 Cavendish Square, London, W1M 9HA.

VERY EXPERIENCED PA/SECRETARY

required for two Partners in firm of Consulting Engineers. We are looking for a mature person 30+ with 120 shorthand, very good typing, Wordstar on WP and some audio. Interesting and varied position encompassing full range of PA/secretarial duties.

Please send CV to Mrs B. Turner,

Orchard Partners, 67-69 Southampton Row,

WC1B 4ET. Tel 01 580 0855

Studio Architects

c£10,000

This is a lovely job in elegant surroundings, handling a broad-based admin role within a small creative team. The architects are involved in a wide variety of projects - small and large. You will liaise with clients, handle correspondence and deal with office administration alongside one other assistant. Good people skills, a professional manner and a flexible, task-orientated approach essential. Typing (no shorthand) requested. Age 20-28. For details please call 01-493 0713.

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DYNAMIC YOUNG SECRETARY

Is required by a young and rapidly expanding publishing company based near the City. The person appointed will assist our Publisher to handle the day-to-day procedures of the company. You should have sound organisational ability with good typing and shorthand and be educated to 'O' level standard (English is essential).

Salary c£5,500

Apply in writing to: Miss L. Grogan,

Money Magazine Ltd, Thames House, 18 Fleet Street, London EC1Y 8ER

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01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

PA
£13,000
MARKETING
SERVICES
GROUP

MD of dynamic agency based London W6 requires a professional PA. Secretarial organisational and communication skills are the key to a stimulating and involving role. Specific industry experience not essential. Age 27-35. Please telephone Carolyn Tanner on 01-846 9090 for an interview. (No agencies).

A WINNING PERSONALITY
CHAIRMAN'S PA - £16,000

Your charm and organisational abilities are of paramount importance in this vital role working for the dynamic Chairman of a leading international company in the West End. Responsibilities include ensuring the smooth running of his business life, complex travel and diary arrangements and coping calmly with the pressures of a top-level job. You will also work closely with the marketing department helping with sponsorship events, choosing venues, menus, guest lists and invitations. Good secretarial skills (100/60/WP), attractive appearance and sound senior level experience necessary. London based non-smoker essential. Age 30-40. Please ring 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Temporaries -
£14,000

As a word processing secretary with Career Design you could be earning £14,000 per annum. Interested? Call Karin Parnaby on 01-489 0889/01-236 2522

CAREER
DESIGN

Recruitment Consultants

Secretarial
Opportunity

COUNTRY LIFE

requires a self-confident, intelligent and amusing Secretary to work in the Estates and Antique sales department for the two managers and their two assistants. Must be "au fait" with all aspects of running a busy office. Shorthand and Word Processing skills are essential, as is a good telephone manner. Salary circa £8,400 p.a. 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Please telephone Michael Sakdali or David Asher on 01-261 5641 or 01-261 5625.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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BREAK OUT
OF THE POOL

Urgently required project based Administrative Assistant for dynamic West End Architectural Practice.

You will be a key member of a project team responsible for document assembly and distribution; organisation and co-ordination of meetings etc plus usual office procedures. You will be working alongside a friendly project team in the studio. You will be familiar with W/P systems and preferably architectural documentation. Excellent salary for right applicant.

Please call Francine Prince for interview on 01-935 5481

PA PUBLISHERS/
CLAPHAM

Excellent opportunity for bright secretary, 22+, working for Publisher Director. Laying out, designing, responsible position organising book club. Salary £10,000. For further details ring Carol Wisby 01 947 0319 or 879 3180 or send CV to Topflight Secretaries, 26 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RE.

SECRETARY/PA

WC1 c£11,000

Applications are invited for the position of Secretary/PA to the Chief Executive of a private property investment company.

The person appointed will have good secretarial skills in addition to a responsible attitude, the experience and organising ability to cope with the demands of the position and accurate shorthand in the order of 100/60.

Salary negotiable plus lunches and other benefits.

Please send full CV to: The Secretary, GMS Syndicate Ltd, 32 Great James Street, Bedford Row London WC1N 3HB or telephone Cathleen Woodberry on 01 831 8041 (No Agencies please)

ESTATE AGENTS

Superb offices in Fulham. We require a young enthusiastic and well educated Receptionist/Secretary with good presentation, initiative and a bright smile. Salary negotiable. Please send CV to: Robert Thomas, 1 Fulham Palace Road, London SW6 6LH. Tel: 01-231 3333

NABARRO NATHANSON

LEGAL SECRETARIES

Nabarro Nathanson, a leading Firm of West End Solicitors, has recently moved to prestigious new offices by Green Park. Due to expansion, there are a number of vacancies for Audio Secretaries experienced in Property and Company Law. There are also openings for secretaries with no legal experience but with a good commercial or professional background. All secretaries will be using a Wang Word Processor.

Secretaries should be aged 22+, with a minimum of 2 1/2 years' legal experience for professional commercial experience where appropriate with fast accurate typing and preferably WP trained.

The Firm offers competitive salaries, two salary reviews a year, Season Ticket Loan, Subsidised Staff Restaurant, Contributory Pension Scheme and bonuses.

Please send your cv to or telephone Miss P Brown, Personnel Administrator, Nabarro Nathanson, 50 Stratton Street, London W1X 5FL. Tel 01-491 6718 or 01-491 6867.

N

DULWICH
COLLEGE

The Master's Secretary

Applications are invited from senior secretaries for this responsible and interesting position. Flexibility, ability to deal with people and to work under pressure essential requirements. Salary by negotiation, according to qualifications and experience. Free lunches, pension scheme, 4 weeks' holiday pay. Applications with cv and names of three referees as soon as possible to The Master, Dulwich College, London SE21 7LD.

TRAINEE
INTERVIEWER

An ambitious secretary may wish to move away from her typewriter. If you would now like to start interviewing quality secretaries and train among professionals, please contact Mack Dinsdale on 01 242 0784. Remuneration and terms attractive.

SUPER SECRETARIES

VARIETY IS...
A BUSY DAY WITH US

If you can cope with creative temperament, correct the spelling in last minute reports, type fast and accurately, deal politely with clients and firmly with suppliers and still have time to relieve on the switchboard - we have the ideal opening. We're an advertising agency in Covent Garden looking for all these skills in one person. We'll reward you well if you can cope. Phone Pam Fox on 01-379 3233.

RECEPTIONIST
WINE COMPANY

Rapidly expanding West End Wine Shipper requires bright young receptionist. Some typing required, smart appearance and good telephone manner essential. £7,000 plus substantial perks. Please telephone Jane Russell on 01 636 4020.

ART GALLERY SW1

Requires competent shorthand typist to assist the Chief Executive and General Manager. 50+/80+. Friendly office and beautiful surroundings. To start immediately. Salary £8,000 p.a. Ring Annabel 01-930 6844

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNAECOLOGISTS

The College is a membership organisation concerned with standards of care, training, education and examinations in the medical specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology.

SECRETARY
£7,312 to £9,127

A Secretary is required to organise the Part 1 MRCOG Examination which is held in the United Kingdom and overseas twice a year. Good typewriting and shorthand will be required, word processing would be an advantage although training will be given. This is a busy and interesting job in a small department of seven people.

The College enjoys excellent working conditions which include free lunches, a flexible 35 hour week, 21 days leave plus public holidays and car parking. Please contact Mrs Anita Simmonds for an application form and details on 01-262 5425 ext 223, or RCOG, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG.

RECEPTIONIST
MAYFAIR
ESTATE AGENTS

We have an immediate position in our busy Mayfair based residential agents for a confident, well spoken receptionist with some typing ability. Excellent prospects and terms. Salary £7,000 neg. Contact Tracey Marshall 01 409 2020

COLLEGE
LEAVER
£7 500+

A busy small and friendly Knightsbridge office of a leading City company needs you to work with our Administrative Secretary providing a secretarial and administration service. Speedy 80/50. An excellent opportunity for a fully personally working with top level people. Please call, Anna on 228 0376. No Agencies please

ART PUBLISHERS Develop a career

in publishing as a career. An exhibition of your skills in this fast expanding industry. We are looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to Director. This is a fast moving and exciting role. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, including answering the phone, typing, and dealing with the public. Salary £7,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

ARTS AND MEDICAL - £9,000 - £12,000

2 young and mature to join leading City company. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, including answering the phone, typing, and dealing with the public. Salary £9,000 - £12,000. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

ADMIN & AUDIO 50-750

Varied role for 2nd A/C. Call Ann on 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

ADMINISTRATIVE PA (No Sh) £12,000

Assisting a senior partner with the management of client portfolio, planning, organising and co-ordinating the professional PA. With the expanding department you will handle the administration and co-ordinate office procedures whilst providing excellent support. No agency experience required. Call 01-493 7822.

PA/PA SECRETARY

To Work Full Time in West Kensington/Fulham. Nearest Tube Stn. West Brompton, Fulham, W. Kensington. Preferably to start immediately. Essential qualifications: NLT HAVE knowledge of Import/Export accounts, Word Processing, Telex, fast typing, Age 25-35, with min. 3 years experience, able to work on her own in small office but with excellent surroundings. Salary £10,000 p.a. with usual holidays & working hours, possible future benefits at The IDEAL Sports Club. Cynagere Send CV to the IDEAL Trading Co, 2 Brompton Court, Brompton, London W14 9PB. (Phone: 01-382 7991)

PA/PA SECRETARY

To Work Full Time in West Kensington/Fulham. Nearest Tube Stn. West Brompton, Fulham, W. Kensington. Preferably to start immediately. Essential qualifications: NLT HAVE knowledge of Import/Export accounts, Word Processing, Telex, fast typing, Age 25-35, with min. 3 years experience, able to work on her own in small office but with excellent surroundings. Salary £10,000 p.a. with usual holidays & working hours, possible future benefits at The IDEAL Sports Club. Cynagere Send CV to the IDEAL Trading Co, 2 Brompton Court, Brompton, London W14 9PB. (Phone: 01-382 7991)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Young dynamic PA/Secretary needs to develop public relations skills in a small, friendly team environment. If so, this Management Consultancy requires secretaries to work at partner level to provide professional, efficient support. Beautiful offices (including roof garden). Skills 80/55/WP. Call 01-493 7822.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W.1. 01-629 7262

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ZOO - MEDIA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

01-439 6021

PA (13K neg) (No Sh)

Large, friendly, busy office. If you don't mind this opportunity of working for 2 Directors on the staff of a firm of Stockbrokers One Director is heading up a new division and the other is heading up the existing division. This is a very exciting and challenging role. Salary £13,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822.

PA - SW1

The M.D. of a small and successful shipping company in SW1, urgently seeks an efficient and energetic PA/Secretary to manage Board Secretariat, report travel arrangements, liaise with clients and to generally run the office. They will pay the right salary for the right person.

STELLA FISHER

01-436 6644

SOMERSET/HANTS BORDER

Country consultancy requires an efficient and energetic PA/Secretary to manage Board Secretariat, report travel arrangements, liaise with clients and to generally run the office. They will pay the right salary for the right person.

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

Required for Mayfair commercial office. Typing an advantage but we can train on W/P, etc. if necessary. Excellent terms and conditions. Salary £7,000 neg. Call Anna on 493 0221 for details and appointment.

KINGSTON ARE CR0.000 Major

PA needs 2 secretaries to join the Marketing Department in the City. Salary £8,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT with a

library background. The City Library is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Librarian. Salary £7,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

MAGAZINE Publishing 28.500

Assistant, secretarial, receptionist, etc. Salary £28,500 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

MUSIC, TV, Video, Design and

creative careers. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Director. Salary £7,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

PARTNERS PA £13,000 Pres

sure, challenge you, with small clients. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Partners. Salary £13,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

£18,000. Age 24, working for Director in an international bank in the West End. Tel. 584 0027. M. J. M. Rec. Cons.

PA to £10,000 The dynamic MD

of a small company in the City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the MD. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

PA £10,000 Busy Knightsbridge

based young social company. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the PA. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

PROFESSIONAL PA, Flexibility

and initiative. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Professional. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

PUBLIC RELATIONS £20,000 Two

large West End based companies are looking for young secretaries with excellent presentation, good typing and word processing skills. Salary £20,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

RECEPTIONIST TO £10,000

£12,000. Age 24, working for Director in an international bank in the West End. Tel. 584 0027. M. J. M. Rec. Cons.

RECEPTIONIST/PA/Bookkeeper

for young architecture firm. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Receptionist/PA/Bookkeeper. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

SECRETARIES for Architects &

Interiors. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Secretaries. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

SELF MOTIVATED Secretary to

an international company. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Secretary. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

START-UP-THE-PA

is to be a Chairman's PA with a salary of £10,000. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Chairman. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

BUSINESSMAN, dynamic person

to join a leading City company. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Businessman. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

SWEDISH: A bright young

secretary with Swedish is sought for a job where other languages would also be useful but are not essential. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

TETRA-TETE for the more

than one PA who is looking for a job where other languages would also be useful but are not essential. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

WEST KENSINGTON to £12,000

Carry out a varied office managerial and secretarial role. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the West Kensington. Salary £12,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

WESTMINSTER Selection Part

time. The City is looking for a bright, young PA/Sec to assist the Westminster Selection. Salary £10,000 neg. Please call 01-493 7822. Graduates only.

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Quality apartments available in luxury blocks. Prime W1 locations. 1/4 Bedroom. £30,000 - £250,000.

DOREEN HAYMAN ESTATES 01-489 8070

FULHAM SW6

"Upstairs Downstairs" restored terrace house close to Parsons Green. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £170,000. Tel: 333 3333

PARADISE NW1

Massive front garden, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £170,000. Tel: 333 3333

SHEPHERDS BUSH RD W6

Opportunity to buy up part of large property would provide 2 bedroom flat and 3 bedroom maisonette. Leasehold. £100,000. Tel: 602 8611

CHISWICK

Desirable detached house in Chiswick. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 914 5726

MILL HILL NW7

Large detached house in Mill Hill. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 346 6872

TEDDINGTON W6

Spacious garden flat, 60 private garden, 21' reception, 2 double beds, 2 bathrooms, 10 year lease, reduced for URGENT SALE £147,500. Tel: 937 3811

CHISWICK

Desirable detached house in Chiswick. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 914 5726

MILL HILL NW7

Large detached house in Mill Hill. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 346 6872

TEDDINGTON W6

Spacious garden flat, 60 private garden, 21' reception, 2 double beds, 2 bathrooms, 10 year lease, reduced for URGENT SALE £147,500. Tel: 937 3811

CHISWICK

Desirable detached house in Chiswick. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 914 5726

MILL HILL NW7

Large detached house in Mill Hill. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 346 6872

TEDDINGTON W6

Spacious garden flat, 60 private garden, 21' reception, 2 double beds, 2 bathrooms, 10 year lease, reduced for URGENT SALE £147,500. Tel: 937 3811

CHISWICK

Desirable detached house in Chiswick. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 914 5726

MILL HILL NW7

Large detached house in Mill Hill. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 346 6872

TEDDINGTON W6

Spacious garden flat, 60 private garden, 21' reception, 2 double beds, 2 bathrooms, 10 year lease, reduced for URGENT SALE £147,500. Tel: 937 3811

CHISWICK

Desirable detached house in Chiswick. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 914 5726

MILL HILL NW7

Large detached house in Mill Hill. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, dining room, and study. £115,000. Tel: 346 6872

TEDDINGTON W6

Spacious garden flat, 60 private garden, 21' reception, 2 double beds, 2 bathrooms, 10 year lease, reduced for URGENT SALE £147,500. Tel: 937 3811

CHISWICK

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10-14 Dorset Square NW1

The final phase of this outstanding development is now available.

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RUGBY UNION

Experience an advantage for the French in Scotland

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Though it has undergone considerable revision, the French squad which begins a four-match visit to Scotland in Glasgow today, is still sufficiently powerful to be useful to the national selectors of both countries. It is an opportunity to examine the merits of those players just behind the top rank, in the wake of a World Cup which had its credits and debits for Frenchman and Scot alike.

There remain 11 members of France's World Cup squad, of whom five appear against Glasgow and District at Highbury this evening. Among the withdrawals from the original squad are Lagisquet, Ondarts, Rodriguez and Camberbero, all of whom played against New Zealand in the World Cup final.

A tour this early in the season may not be entirely to the liking of club coaches in Scotland, who are working towards October 3 and the first day of the McEwan's club championship; their leading players will have been distracted by district calls and, on September 26, the need to put together a Scottish XV against the French at Gala.

Nevertheless, the Scottish selectors, with a B fixture against Italy before the international championship begins, will take the opportunity to look at some of their promising younger men.

French representative calls.

S Koreans may tour England

By David Hands

The Irish Universities begin their tour of the Far East tomorrow with a match in Seoul which may be only the first of a series of matches between teams from Britain and Ireland, and South Korea. An itinerary is in place for a first visit by South Korea to England in December, if sufficient sponsorship can be found.

It is proposed to bring the Koreans, who made their first major overseas tour to Australia earlier this year, to England for five matches, beginning against Cambridge University Park and ending against a Combined England Students XV on December 17. In between they will play Cornwall, Combined Services and Surrey.

It is the kind of missionary contact that produced much discussion during the Asian/Pacific tour in June but, as is so often the case, depends upon

financial support for the Koreans. It has, for instance, cost £35,000 for the Irish students to make their six-match tour which begins against the South Korean Armed Forces and ends on October 3, against Japan in Tokyo.

John Mulhall, from University College, Dublin, captains a 26-strong party on the first major tour the universities have made since their visit to New Zealand in 1978. Three of their matches in Japan will be refereed by Cliff Dainty, of New Zealand.

All four of the home countries' student bodies have received invitations to take part in the student world tournament in France next August. Sixteen countries have been invited and the tournament would be a wonderful climax after a season which is even busier in youth and student representative terms.

BOXING

Prize of Lonsdale belt brings back Sibson

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

After a career spanning more than 11 years and 61 contests, Britain's most experienced boxer, Tony Sibson, sets out to win back the British title which he lost in 1979, when he challenged Brian Anderson, of Sheffield, at the Albert Hall tonight.

The contest has set off for the Kensington venue three times, but never reached its destination because twice Sibson and then Anderson cried off through injury or illness. But this time the two men say they are ready to go.

Whether Sibson manages to relieve Anderson of his title or Anderson takes away Sibson's Commonwealth belt depends on two factors: how far Sibson has gone back since his traumatic defeat by Marvin Hagler in 1983; and on how well Anderson manages to overcome the awe he must feel for the popular Leicester man.

Sibson's form since Hagler has been erratic. He has hit the floor rather more often than in his heyday. Don Lee dumped him, so did a journeyman, Luis Rivera, of Puerto Rico, and of course, Dennis Andries, who did him no good at all. Though Sibson has the incentive of winning the Lonsdale belt outright, these defeats together with the struggle to keep his motivation up and win down, could affect him adversely.

Anderson, too, has faded similarly in his 38-bout career, though he has not mixed in such high-class company as Sibson. He put both Prince of Wales and Chris Pyatt on the floor, but

could not keep them there and was stopped in five by Rodney and lost on points to Pyatt.

Anderson beat two former world-class veterans, Eckhardt Dogge, of West Germany, and Gratien Tonna, of France, in the second and first rounds, though it does not mean he will be as successful against this veteran, aged 29.

Anderson had a good win against Tony Burke when he lifted the vacant title in Belfast in October. Anderson has not boxed since, and Sibson has not set foot in the ring for a year.

Anderson's manager, Brendan Ingle, suspects Sibson's stamina and believes that the challenger will try to impose his will on Anderson straight away in an attempt to overwhelm him. "Sibson isn't the fighter he was, so he will try to show who is the boss right away, get on top and take it easy. But it will not have any effect on Brian," Ingle said yesterday.

"Brian becoming champion, Sibson has gained tremendously in confidence," Ingle added. "He has a tremendous right hand and fancies the job and wearing Sibson's Commonwealth belt as well."

Anderson has been training with a cruiserweight, Chris Devine. If Anderson can box and move to stay clear of Sibson's left hook, he could steal the decision on points or even cut up Sibson. But should Sibson land with a big left hand early, Anderson's nerve could break and the more experienced man could set a comfortable pace to a points win.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Tomczak fells Giants

Mike Tomczak, a native of suburban Chicago, enthralled the home crowd in the Windy City on Monday night by completing two touchdown passes and diving in for another to lead the Bears past the defending Super Bowl champions, the New York Giants, 24-19 in a National Football League game (Robert Kirby writes).

Tomczak completed 20 of 34 passes for 292 yards, including scoring tosses of 42 and 36 yards. The Bears' offense did not allow a sack of Tomczak, who has a record of

eight wins and no defeats as a starter for Chicago.

The Bears' defense recorded eight sacks and allowed only one offensive touchdown by New York.

"It was one crazy game, the way it was built up," the Bears' coach, Mike Ditka, said. "The game had been promoted as Super Bowl XXIV. This was the hardest-hitting game I've ever seen."

Dennis McKinnon, of the Bears, scored on a 94-yard punt return, the longest in club history.

Dick responds to his Rome critics



FRANK DICK (left), the director of coaching for British athletics, is planning to lunch with Bobby Robson now that he feels he can identify with the sort of problems the England football manager has experienced. Dick has suffered a torrid summer in which he has faced up to immense criticism from all quarters of athletics before, during and since the world championships. "I now know what Bobby Robson goes through," he said. "I have never known such criticism before but I feel I am much harder for it. It was an important lesson for me to endure. If my Christmas card list was to consist of only those people who cared to write or speak to me during all this, then it will be much shorter than last year's. But I still have my head held up high again despite all this." For the first time since the world championships, Dick gives THE TIMES his answers to the pertinent questions resulting from his troublesome summer.

about why it happened in the first place should really be presented to the management, not the coach. Do you feel the disqualification of our men's 100 metres relay team in the first heat in Rome was a result of this previous turmoil? What it proved was that the policy of trying to cater for individuals within a team is wrong. The relay problem underlined that it is essential to keep the team together, and that individual differences only spell disaster. That things can go

wrong was clear from the Canadians who got their technique wrong and blew their chances of a medal which they were expected to get. I now want 10 athletes to practise from now on a monthly basis until Seoul. If those athletes invited choose not to commit themselves then they should not expect to be part of the final relay squad. This will stop phone calls immediately before major championships from athletes depicting if, and where, they will run.

Would it not be better for British athletics if you and Andy Norman, the Promotions Officer, were to settle your differences?

The issue is not Frank Dick versus Andy Norman. We both simply have different sets of objectives, consistent with our two roles. At some point someone must be appointed in the middle to make a decision on our conflicting views, just like any good business is run. One would expect us as professionals to stand our ground in our own areas.

Do you still stand by your controversial selection methods which provoked the International Athletics Club to call for your resignation in August?

There are different kinds of experience. Tom McKean will be better for his bad run in Rome for he is already world-class. But David Smith, the hammer thrower, wants to throw against a Russian who can throw a couple of metres more than him, not Yuri Sedykh, the world champion. There would be no value in putting the 19-year-old middle-distance runner, Simon Muggleston, against Anzura Dore, there is no doubt that if we handle his talent carefully in the next two years, he can be as good as Anzura. I have not changed my view on this.

With suggestions that West Germany approached you with work, and with the BAAB folding last weekend, is your job as Director of Coaching for British Athletics safe? I have not been offered a job by anyone involved with West Germany. This all started after German newspapers began a campaign saying that their athletics needed a Frank Dick. My job is secure. Bill Ferguson, the AAA Chairman, phoned me last weekend to reassure me of his confidence in the coaching programme and that business is as usual.

Do you think that, as has been suggested in some quarters, British athletics had a disastrous time in Rome?

We gained the same amount of medals in Rome as we did at Helsinki in 1983, and improved our position in the world from fifth to fourth in the points total. All this was achieved without the best services of Thompson, Cram, Coe, Lynch, Wade, Murray, Black, Coe, Simpson and Budd. Now tell me what a tragedy Rome was. With our best ever European Junior Championships, and best result in the European Cup this season as well, the future is looking extremely good.

Ian Stafford

FOOTBALL: NAPOLI'S THREAT TO BRING A HIGH-FLYING DUTCHMAN DOWN TO EARTH IN EUROPEAN CUP TIE

Real Madrid suffer in silence of the Bernabeu stadium

From Clive White Madrid

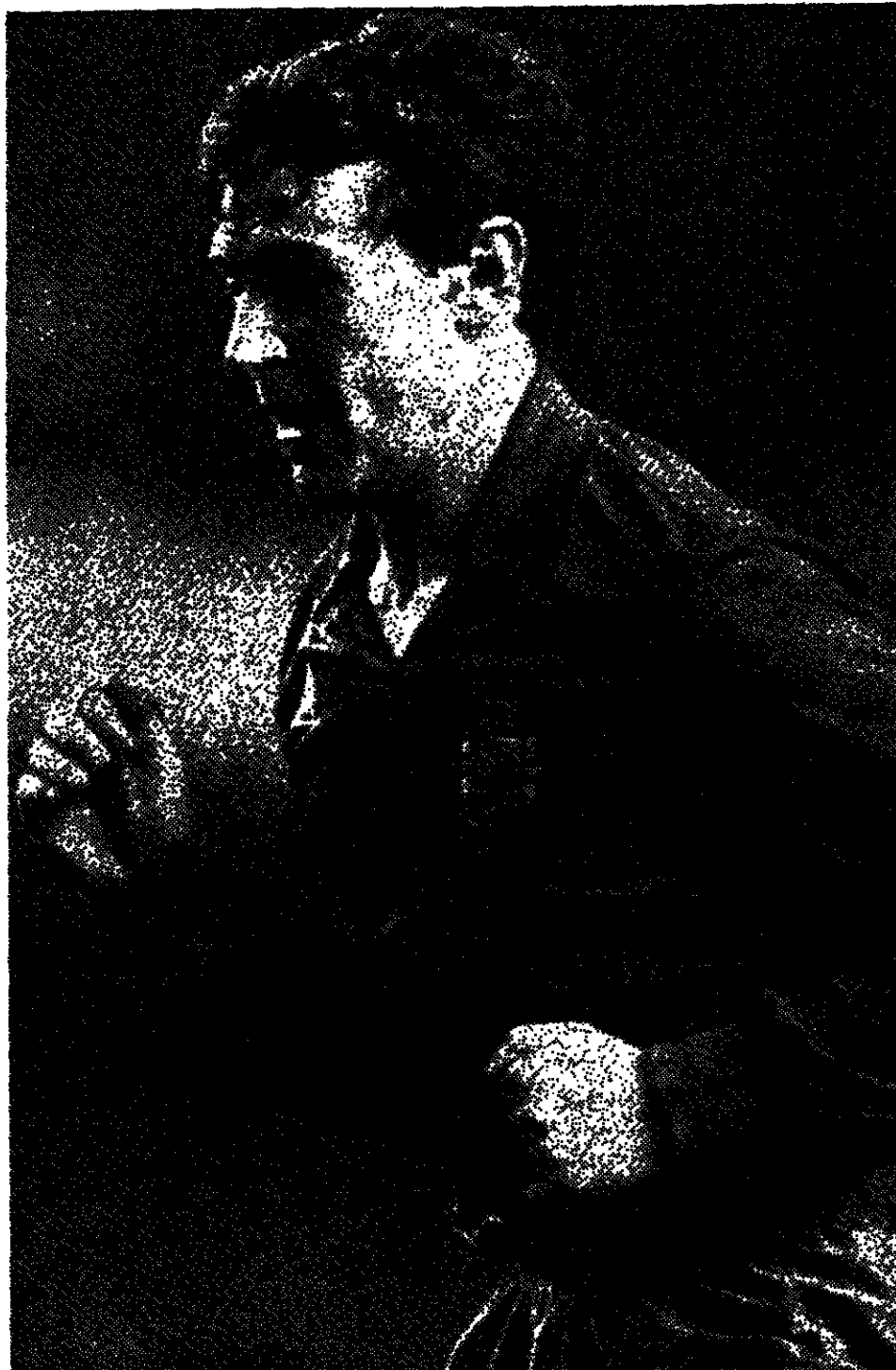
Leo Beenhakker, the Real Madrid coach, has every reason to be sympathetic towards the English this week. Today his exciting Real Madrid team, designed to entertain 100,000 people, will be watched by a lucky handful as they contest a first round European Cup tie against Napoli, the Italian champions, that would have grand the final not to mention the magnificent Bernabeu stadium.

"We have played two practice games against the reserves in an empty Bernabeu and it's horrible," Beenhakker said. This is Real's punishment for the mindless behaviour of a minuscule minority, known as Ultra Sur, at their European Cup semi-final second leg against Bayern Munich last season when railings were dismantled and thrown like spears at the West German goalkeeper and the referee.

Like the genuine supporters of leading English clubs, the Spaniards are being denied the privilege of watching live the finest team to emerge from the capital since Real, six time winners of the European Cup, last won Europe's premier competition in 1966. But unlike the English, Real's penance will last only one more match which they must play at least 350 kilometres from Madrid, when their followers will once more be able to follow.

Beenhakker's more immediate sympathy, though, is for his arch rival, Terry Venables, who is once more trying to negotiate the Barcelona tightrope while being jostled from all sides by his own people. "Terry's doing a great job there. I know the problems in Barcelona, it's horrible. The newspapers and the public give you no time, not even a day. You have to win friendly, summer tournaments, everything. But Terry can do it. He will finish the season I'm sure. He had some bad luck at the start. Losing a home match here is terrible, you're made to feel like a criminal."

Beenhakker should know. He had his wobbly moments last season when he took charge of Real. But he was fortunate to have a proven winner who was prepared to wait for success. Not that he had to wait long, but last season's League title was not the prime target of Beenhakker and the



Real inspiration: Butragueno, who will be hoping to open up the Napoli defence seen in the last 10 years.

Real directors. "I asked them do you want 60,000 people or 100,000 every week in the Bernabeu," 100,000," they said. "OK," I said. "Then you must do it this way."

Through this Dutchman the great Dutch national team of the 1970s is living again in the new Real. Beenhakker said: "At the beginning it was difficult. Real had won two UEFA Cups so the players

were asking why we should change the style. Also Spanish players, by their character like to do something on the ball. It is not natural for them to play one-touch football and move without the ball. But step by step we have taught them the football made famous by Ronald Michels and Dymako Kiev in more recent years. It has cost me dearly, some years of my life, the colour of my hair but we have done it. This is one of the best teams I have

seen in the last 10 years."

Having scored 18 goals and conceded just one in their opening three games, and that excludes the six for which Everton, the English champions, were hit in a recent friendly, Beenhakker has set a standard that will be impossible to maintain. Napoli, Maradona and the absence of the suspended Sanchez threaten to bring them down to earth.

Souness leaves his plans in the air

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Kiev

The spirits of Glasgow Rangers were lifted yesterday at the end of an exhausting journey lasting some six hours. They learned that Dynamo Kiev, their opponents in the first leg of the European Cup first round here tonight, will almost certainly be without two of their leading international figures.

Neither Belanov, the European footballer of the year, nor Zavarov, the reigning Soviet Union footballer of the year, are expected to play, and their absence is an unexpected factor in the balance of the tie.

But their loss may not affect the theory of Graeme Souness. Aware that Kiev's strength lies on the ground, the Rangers manager has selected McCosk to perform on his own in front of a midfield line of five. "They are not likely to go through us," he said.

"We want them to send in crosses and high balls because we've got Woods, Fletcher and Roberts, who could deal with them. That's the plan."

Yet he has put it into practice

only twice before. The first time, Rangers beat Bayer Uerdingen 2-0 in a pre-season match in West Germany, but they then lost by the same margin three weeks ago at Aberdeen.

Souness himself is still troubled by a groin-strain and may not play. His fitness will probably include two changes from Saturday's game against Dunfermline. Cohen and McGregor will be brought in to fulfil specific tasks.

Munro and Cooper, both of whom were sent off during the UEFA Cup tie against Borussia Monchengladbach last season, are suspended. Rangers are otherwise at full strength and Francis, the decisive figure in the 1979 European Cup final, is a likely substitute.

Kiev, the conquerors of Celtic last season, would appear to be in decline in form as well as fitness. There are also complaints of fatigue in their camp after an almost unbroken run of competitive and friendly matches stretching over 18 months. Fixture congestion, it seems, is a global problem.

Irish sides plagued by injuries

By George Ace

Northern Ireland's three representatives in Europe will be without key players in tonight's ties. Linfield, who moved to Oslo to meet Lillestrom, are minus Mark McGahey, the Northern Ireland international, the most prolific goal scorer in the Irish League.

Coleraine, at home to Dundee United, have three regulars missing. Ronnie McDowell, the captain, Raymond McCoy, the forward, and the defender, Dean McCullough. Gerry Mulligan, of Glentworth, who missed the first leg away tie against Rovaniemi of Finland, is another international sidelined with injury.

Platt, the Coleraine player/manager, has opted for Nigel Quigley, aged 18, the full back, and Dermot Doherty, 20, the midfielder player, who each have played only one full senior game as two of the replacements. Platt said: "The lads are talented players; they will not let the side down. We may yet surprise a few people."

Shamrock Rovers will surely start favourites at Tolka Park tonight against Omnia Nicotia. Of course, in a European Cup first leg game, the same, however, cannot be said about the League of Ireland's other representatives. Dundalk who travel to Amsterdam to meet Ajax tomorrow night in the Cup Winners Cup, Ajax having refused to switch the first leg tie to Oriel Park.

A point to prove for St Mirren

By a Special Correspondent

The unfortunate lack of media attention paid to St Mirren since they won the Scottish Cup last May, may serve only to strengthen a sense of purpose which could overwhelm Tromso, of Norway, in tonight's first round, first leg European Cup Winners' Cup tie at Love Street.

The St Mirren manager, Alex Smith, with his players at the Seemill on the Ayrshire coast yesterday, seems confident, mainly because several important players are once again available after injury and suspension.

Smith has had the Norwegians watched in several matches since the draw was made and he expects that his players will be too sharp for them.

"Many people believed it was a fluke when we won the cup," Smith said. "We have a duty now to prove that that was not the case."

"Last weekend, I must admit I was concerned at the number of players who were not available for selection. Now, they are all back and our side will be very close to that which won the cup."

"Of course, any team you face in Europe has to be respected and the Norwegians are very strong and well organized. But I am hopeful that we have enough men of exceptional ability to overcome anything they can present."

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS	FOOTBALL	GOLF	TENNIS
COVENTRY: Gordon Flaherty road race (1000m): B. O'Connor (Nesley) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.	UEFA CUP: Sporting Standard (Rome) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.	WENTWORTH: Tony Clarke 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.	FLUSHING MEADOWS: US championships. Men's singles final: Lendl (USA) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Murphy faces new test

Even an ebullient character such as Alex Murphy must find life depressing at the moment (Keith Macklin writes). St Helens are out of the Lancashire Cup, and their long injury list now includes Neil Holding, a half back whose jaw was broken at Leigh on Sunday. Further misery may be inflicted on Murphy tonight when Peter Fox's Yorkshire try to thrash Murphy's Lancashire at Wigan.

This is the third War of the Roses contest, a county-of-origin fixture, and Yorkshire won the first two so convincingly that there were allegations that

some of the Lancashire players had not tried hard enough. If that is the case tonight, the air will surely be blue in the Lancashire dressing room at half-time, for Murphy does not take kindly to defeat.

But Yorkshire have two international half backs, Hargreaves and Fox, and a fearsome pack of six Great Britain internationals. Lancashire are also well served at half back, where Warrington's Woods replaces Edwards as partner for Gregor. Another injured absentee for the side is centre Stephenson, who is replaced by Cullen.

SQUASH SPONSORS

Wales are to receive sponsorship from a sports firm to send teams to this year's world team squash rackets championships, of course, in a European Cup first leg game, the same, however, cannot be said about the League of Ireland's other representatives.

The women's tournament starts in Auckland on September 20 and the men's in London from October 22 to 31.

TEAMS: Wales: C. Jones (capt), A. Davies, A. Evans, T. Salisbury. Women: S. Johnson (capt), S. Stevenson, S. Farn, S. Thomas.

The less fortunate members of society will benefit by a £25,000 package from this tournament which will go to the following eight UK charities: Help the Aged, the Lord's Taverners, MENCAE, OXFAM, RNLI, RSPCA, Save the Children, Fund and Snooker-Golf Society. The eight players who reach

SNOOKER

Cueing up for charity

Fidelity Investment Services Limited, the supporter of the season's first ranking tournament, the final stages of which starts at Stoke-on-Trent on September 23, has crossed new frontiers in sports sponsorship (Sydney Friskin writes).

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the quarter-finals of the Fidelity Unit Trusts International will each draw one of the eight charities. The four quarter-final losers will win £500 in Fidelity Unit Trusts for the charity they have drawn. Likewise, the semi-final losers, £1,000 each for their particular charity, the runner-up £2,000 and the winner £40,000. Other prizes are on offer for the highest break and for the maximum break during the televised stages of the tournament, to be given to a nominated charity.

The tournament, which ends on October 4, will be televised by ITV.

Bedford rings the bell for new selection policy

By Ian Stafford

David Bedford, the chairman of the International Athletics Club (IAC) and former 10,000 metres world record-holder, last night called plans to abolish pre-selection and adopt the American policy of first-past-the-post for the Olympic Games in Seoul next year as "a victory for common sense".

It emerged yesterday that Bedford, the Southern Counties representative on the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA), proposed last Friday at a AAA finance and general purpose board meeting that pre-selection, adopted by the soon-to-be-defunct British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB), should be withdrawn. In its place would be a system of automatic selection of the first two in each event at the AAA championships next August with space for one more athlete to be picked by the selectors, just six weeks before the Olympics.

This proposal has not yet been passed but its supporters believe it will be at the general committee meeting next month. Bedford led an IAC campaign in August, just before the world championships in Rome, to change the

present selection policy and to demand the resignation of the board of selectors after some athletes had been omitted from the British squad despite achieving the qualifying standards.

"I believe this is a great step in the right direction," Bedford added. "The pre-selection structure simply did not work. Anyone can see this from the results in Rome and it should be abolished immediately."

"The beauty of this new system is that athletes now have the opportunity to get themselves selected by

Dick answers critics
Page 46

producing the goods at the AAA championships and the infinite wisdom of the selectors will make sure that if, say, Steve Cram should fall in his qualifying race, then the third selection place could be his.

The idea of increasing the importance of the national championships will also provide the opportunity for the British public to see major races between top athletes, potentially Cram against Sebastian Coe for example, something of a rarity in the past. It will also provide extra

funds for the sport from television.

Mike Farrell, the secretary of the AAA, last night disputed the assertion that the scrapping of pre-selection will definitely be passed at the meeting next month. "The matter was certainly raised during the meeting last Friday but it has not been taken as policy," he said.

"Just because the AAA has taken over the administration of the BAAB does not mean that we intend to press everybody into our way of thinking."

But there is a strong body of opinion within the AAA, which now has as many votes as the rest of the British athletics bodies put together, that the new selection idea proposed by Bedford and the Southern Counties should be agreed.

Frank Dick, the national director of coaching, last night asked for a quick decision. "Whatever policy is arrived at, it is imperative that the athletes and their coaches should know as soon as possible," he said. "We have to know their decision quickly so that our preparation for Seoul, less than a year away, is not hindered."

England squad receive visas

By Andrew Longmore

There was a collective sigh of relief at the offices of the Test and County Cricket Board early yesterday afternoon, when the passports of the 14 members of England's World Cup party arrived at Lord's from the Indian High Commission stamped with the correct visas.

"The passports for the whole World Cup squad are back with no last-minute hitches about visas. They will now go to the Pakistan Embassy to be stamped, but we have been assured that there will be no problems there either," Peter Lush, the tour manager, said.

That short statement seems to have removed the last problem for England's participation in the World Cup in India and Pakistan next month, barring last-minute intervention by the Indian Government.

There had been fears that all players with South African connections, which was roughly half the England squad, and particularly the vice-captain, John Embury, and Graham Gooch, might be asked to sign an anti-apartheid declaration before being allowed to play, but that prospect has receded and, after long months of uncertainty, England can look forward to their opening match, against the West Indies, in Gujran Wala on October 9.

The party is scheduled to leave on September 28.

Members' unrest continues

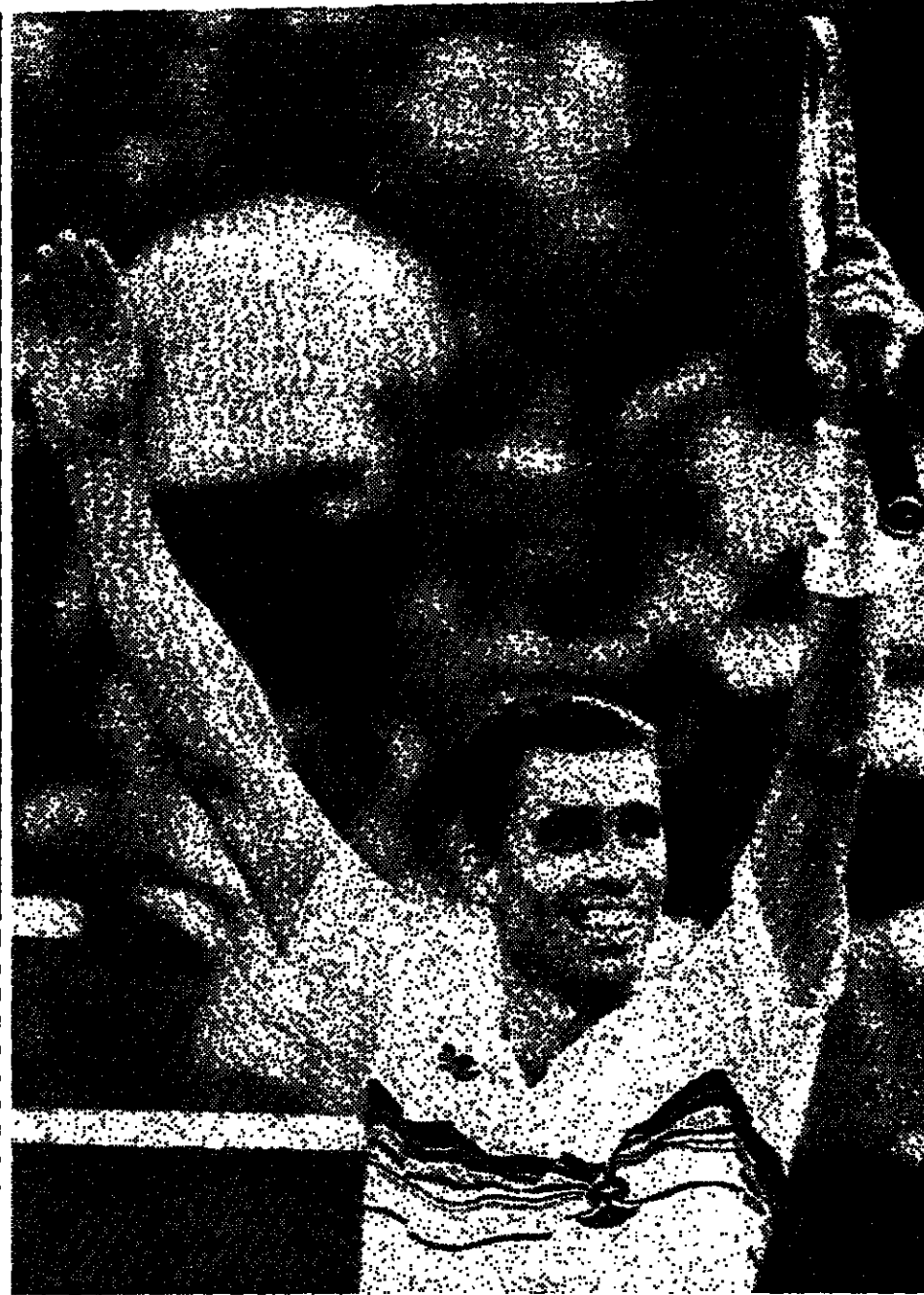
By Alan Lee

A group of Warwickshire members is preparing to force the club's second special meeting inside two years, with secretary David Heath and chairman Tony Stevens the subjects of their discontent.

Petitions have been circulating among the membership since Bob Willis resigned as cricket chairman a fortnight ago with a simultaneous attack on the influence Mr Heath is exerting. It is understood that sufficient signatures have now been obtained to impose an extraordinary meeting and that calls will be made for the resignation of both secretary and chairman.

Issues which the dissatisfied members wish to raise include the reasons for the departure of two respected officers in Jim Cumbers and Keith Cook; the reason why Dennis Amis declined to replace Cumbers as commercial manager; and the failure to attract available playing stars to Edgbaston.

On Monday night the club's general committee took the unusual step of initiating a vote of confidence in Mr Heath.



Stoic triumph: Ivan Lendl celebrates his victory over Wilander in the final of the US Open

Lendl's pain barrier is no obstacle to victory

Flushing Meadow (AFP) — Ivan Lendl beat Mats Wilander of Sweden, 6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4 to win the United States Open championship for the third consecutive year on Monday night, despite recovering from influenza.

"I had to keep my emotions up because my strength was up and down," Lendl, the world No. 1, said.

"I was out of juice the last three and half sets," Lendl added, explaining that his victory, in 4hr 47min, over the third-ranked Wilander was due to strength of mind and a little bit of luck.

Lendl's luck started before the match. His illness was known only to his closest advisers, and the rain that washed out Sunday's final turned out to be a winning omen for the Czechoslovak-born resident of Greenwich, Connecticut.

"The biggest part of my victory was the rain yesterday," Lendl said. "If it was any other tournament besides a grand slam, I wouldn't have played either on Saturday or Monday."

Lendl had shown no effects of the illness as he easily beat Jimmy Connors on Saturday, and Wilander said after

Monday's match that he had no clue that Lendl was not feeling up to full strength.

Lendl, aged 27, becomes the first man to win three consecutive US Open championships since John McEnroe (1979 to 1981).

"It is something I never dreamt of," Lendl said. "It is unbelievable. If somebody had told me three years ago, after I had lost three straight US Open finals, that I would win three in a row I would have thought that person was crazy."

Finals results

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Lendl (C) to M Wilander (S) 6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4. MEN'S SINGLES: Lendl (C) to M Wilander (S) 6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4. WOMEN'S DOUBLES: M Navratilova and P Shriver (US) to K Jordan (US) and E Smylie (AUS) 6-4, 6-2. MEN'S DOUBLES: E Sanchez (Sp) and M Navratilova (US) to P Aronsson and M S. Hughes (US) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6.

"Each one is special, this one is special because I didn't really expect to win."

Wilander, aged 23, the winner of two French Opens and two Australian Opens, was playing in his first US Open final and was attempting to become the first Swede to win the singles title.

His illustrious fellow-

countryman, Bjorn Borg, reached the US Open final four times, losing his last attempt in 1980 in a five-set, 4hr 11min match to John McEnroe.

"I was very relaxed during the whole tournament," Wilander said. "In a way I'm happy that I played a tough match, but it doesn't really matter."

Lendl's consistent play forced Wilander to abandon his normal baseline style for 71 trips to the net in an attempt to keep Lendl under constant pressure.

The longest match in this US Open ended with Lendl's second match point. As his backhand service return fell out of reach of the rushing Wilander, Lendl raised his arms in relief and exhilaration.

"The only thing I could do was wish he missed it. It was a good return," Lendl said. Just five points earlier Wilander, who lost to Lendl in this year's French Open, had saved one match point with a service winner.

A crowd of 15,003, about 5,000 short of the National Tennis Center's stadium capacity, came out on a workday to watch the final.

Italian week in Merthyr Tydfil

By Simon Barnes

Let us savour the names of the great football teams that tonight contest the European Cup: Ajax, Amsterdam; FC Hamburg, Sporting Lisbon; Merthyr Tydfil. Yes, Merthyr Tydfil are there all right. They were the Welsh Cup last season, did they not?

Their opponents are the Italian club, Atalanta. Atalanta didn't even win their cup, they were runners-up to Napoli. But Napoli also won the league, and so they are in the Champions' Cup. Merthyr Tydfil play in the Southern League, which is now called the Brierley League, and is nothing to do with the comic that brought the world Coloured Bink — The Short Sighted Bink. Merthyr are in the Midlands division. This is a ludicrous mismatch.

"People kept saying we would crack under the pressure when we played Newport County," the Merthyr manager, Lyn Jones, said. Indeed they were wild outsiders in the Welsh Cup, never mind the European Cup Winners' Cup. Beating Newport in the final was a pretty spectacular achievement. To play Atalanta, one of Trevor Francis's old clubs, is one of the year's spectacularly silly fixtures.

But football, more than any other sport, specializes in such incongruities. And I'll tell you something, I am utterly convinced that Merthyr will come out of this unbalanced match covered in glory. For in football, more than in any other sport, underdogs almost always look good. Underdogs even win, sometimes.

In football, the skill, technique and know-how are wonderful to see. In no sport do skill, technique and know-how seem to matter less. In the cricket knock-out competitions the minor counties



Charles: hero in Turin

are hopelessly out of their depth: a win over a first-class county is a rare and stupendous achievement. No amount of blood and guts will get a no-hoper out-sprinting Ben Johns, Milton Keynes, Bucks, may have all the character in the world — but they still would not worry the Chicago Bears. But in the FA Cup, first division club gets trampled over by some bunch of loonies from the lower divisions every season. It is a common and stupendous achievement.

It is one of the great beauties of football — yes, there are one or two — that courage and wild inspiration can carry no-hopes through. It was a thought that the Merthyr boys took with them to the FA Cup training yesterday. Though to tell the truth, not all of them made training in the morning. They couldn't all get the time off work. Ceri Williams was out somewhere surfacing the roads. Steve Williams was working for a scrap merchant. British Telecom wouldn't let Phil Evans off the hook. Oh, and David Webby was taking his driving test.

But there are a number of weird things that make this match appropriate. There is a large Italian community in Merthyr, descendants of people who went there between the wars for jobs in the steel works. They have been having an Italian Week in the town, with spaghetti-eating contests, naturally. And Penny Darroes Park is on the site of a Roman fort.

John Charles, the great Juventus centre-forward, the one they called *Il Bacio Gigante*, once played for Merthyr. And yes, Gerry Hitchins used to play for Merthyr and is happy to play for Atalanta. Not a lot of people know that.

This is a gorgeous fixture, no doubt about it. It also happens to be the first competitive match between a British and an Italian club since the Haysel disaster. Really, you couldn't pick a better one for this moment of bridge-building. It has that rare thing in football: charm. But there are just a few worries, needless to say, about the occasion becoming polluted by the fiscal debate of the nearby league clubs. I hope more than I can say that this does not happen.

England arrange build-up

England will play The Netherlands at Wembley on March 23, as part of what should be their build-up towards next summer's European Championship finals. The two countries last met at Wembley in 1982 when England won 2-0.

England already have a practice game in Israel, on February 17, and are looking for another away fixture on April 30. In addition, they will want to include a South American team as opponents in the Rous Cup competition in May.

● **FRANKFURT:** Bodo Illgner, aged 20, who replaced Toni Schumacher as Cologne goalkeeper, is now to gain international recognition (Reuters reports). Although Illgner has only played 26 league games he will make his debut against Denmark next week in order to gain experience at international level. Eike Immel, of Stuttgart, however, remains the first choice.

Illgner was an unknown teenager when he unexpectedly became Cologne's No. 1 earlier this year after Schumacher had been suspended from playing for both club and country after writing an autobiography exposing drug-taking in West German football.

Italian is on trial at Old Trafford

The Manchester United reserve goalkeeper, Chris Turner, yesterday spent part of his 29th birthday watching an Italian try out for his place at Old Trafford. Giuliano Terraneo, aged 32, is having trials with United, who are looking for an experienced goalkeeper while their England Under-21 player, Gary Walsh, gains experience.

"I have six months of my contract to go but I need to get settled somewhere as quickly as possible," Turner said. "The manager has settled on Gary and that's fair enough, but now I am looking at another experienced goalkeeper being brought in. Where will that put me?"

Terraneo, a free agent, was recommended by Ray Wilkins, who played with him at AC Milan. The United manager, Alex Ferguson, has already attempted to sign the Russian, Renat Desayev, and Jean-Marie Pfaff, of Belgium.

Ferguson is also considering another another by Manchester City to obtain his reserve central defender, Graeme Hogg.

Arsenal's unsettled Scottish forward, Charlie Nicholas, strolled through a reserve team game against QPR at Loftus Road yesterday, failing to produce a single shot in a 3-0 defeat, and said: "I still want

to leave. George Graham (the Arsenal manager) wants me to leave, so I'm praying that things go right for me."

"People have suggested that Celtic would be my first choice, but that's wrong. I'm interested in any offers, wherever they come from."

Leicester have paid a club record fee of £350,000 for Luton's England Under-21 forward, Mike Newell. The move looked to have fallen through last week, when the Leicester manager, Bryan Hamilton, failed to arrange an exchange transfer involving his Scottish international, Ian Wilson. Newell will go straight into the side for tonight's home match with Oldham.

Huddersfield have rejected an offer of £250,000 from Leeds United for the forward, Duncan Shearer, who cost them only £5,000 from Chelsea last March.

The Derby County manager, Arthur Cox, admitted yesterday that he had joined the chase for Oxford United's Republic of Ireland midfielder, Ray Houghton. Cox said: "We have made a bid which has been accepted by Oxford and we have spoken to the player." Houghton is believed to have rejected a move to Derby, but Cox said: "As far as I am concerned, the matter is still open to discussion."

Two weeks ago, one crew member reported that the paid hand aboard the Japanese registered yacht had loaded up the top windward bunk with 200kg of illicit water ballast carried in disposable water carriers, to improve the yacht's righting moment — and thus her speed — during both the Channel Race and the Fastnet classic.

Two other crew members later said that this illegal practice was used again during the One Ton Cup at Kiel, West Germany, but the race jury there were unable to find any proof of the allegations.

The decision to hold an inquiry in London on October 15 into the earlier allegations follows a written statement from Thomas Friese, the West German owner of I-Punkt, concerning the transfer of water ballast during the Admiral's Cup which the club received this week.

The British hearing follows the lead taken by the West German and Austrian yachting federations to hold individual inquiries into the allegations. Both federations received a letter from the Austrian sailmaker, Herbert Raudaschl, who acted as helmsman aboard the yacht during the Channel Race, confirming that other members of the crew had taken on water ballast during the Admiral's Cup races.

Sponsor leaves Capt Phillips

Captain Mark Phillips has lost his sponsor. Croft Original have announced the ending of their support for his British Open Championship Horse Trials at Gatcombe Park.

Over the past five years Croft has invested more than £1.5 million in the event, which is the setting of the Princess Royal and her husband's home, together with the prize-money, attracted the world's top riders.

Hugh Thomas, director of British Equestrian Promotions, which is responsible for attracting sponsors, said: "We obviously regret the Croft decision. They have put a great deal of money not only into Gatcombe but some 16 other events around the country over the past couple of years. But we have to respect their marketing decision and are grateful for what they've done for the sport."

"But we don't regard this as a disaster. We have to go out into the market again." He felt sure a big company would take advantage of "a high-profile opportunity".

SPORT IN BRIEF

Britain hosts Gillian Greenwood, the individual gold medal winner, and the rest of Great Britain's European junior show jumping champion team, meet Belgium, West Germany, Ireland and The Netherlands in an international meeting at Cambridge next month.

Amateur fund Stones Bitter are to sponsor the London amateur Rugby League for a second season as well as the League's representative side and cover other costs associated with developing the game in London.

Date altered Bramley have brought forward their John Smith's Yorkshire Cup second round tie against Bradford Northern to next Tuesday night at McLaren Field. The other three second round ties, Halifax v Castleford, Leeds v Wakefield Trinity and Featherstone Rovers v Yorks will be played on September 23.

Visa hitch Leszek Kucharski, the Polish tennis player, has visa problems and may miss the Leeds Masters at Wembley Conference Centre this week.

Warren's verdict on Marsh

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Terry Marsh, Britain's world light-welterweight boxing champion who retired from boxing on Monday, met his manager, Frank Warren, at a secret venue in London yesterday to explain why he kept his epilepsy a secret for two years and announced his retirement through an article in *The Sun* without informing him first.

Warren, who has informed the International Boxing Federation that Marsh is no longer able to defend his title, brushed aside suggestions in the second part of an exclusive story in *The Sun* that Marsh might return to boxing after consulting second opinion on his disability.

"Terry will not be allowed to box again," Warren said. "Under no circumstances can I allow a man who has blackouts to go into the ring even if he gets a clearance from another doctor saying he is 100 per cent fit. Even if I was not his manager I would stop him. He needs protecting from himself. I have relieved him as from now."

John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, commented: "From what we have read, Marsh is suspended on medical grounds for obvious reasons."

"Unless Terry is retracting the statement, I am sure my medical panel are going to be very reluctant to allow him to carry on unless there is absolute proof he is completely fit," Morris added.

McGuigan undecided

Barry McGuigan has said that he will not make a decision about giving up boxing for another couple of months. He said on an Irish radio chat show: "It's almost definite that I will not box again. But I'm giving it a couple of months before absolutely finally making up my mind."

McGuigan, who is concentrating on motor racing and singing, revealed that a death-bed request by his father had prompted a decision to consider giving up boxing.

Appeal plan

Sam Ermolenko, of the United States, who rides for Wolverhampton, plans to appeal against his 15-month ban from speedway for failing to take a drug test during a recent England versus United States match.

Tour match

Sydney — Australia will play a Rest of the World Rugby League team at the end of a 1988 tour by Britain, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Switch hitter

Ian Botham, fresh from helping Worcestershire to the Rediffusion Sunday cricket title, switches to baseball at the Oval on Sunday. Botham meets the former baseball player, Hank Aaron, the career home run leader, in a unique "Home Run Challenge" during a break between the British junior championship final and the national club championship final.

Britain hosts

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